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THE SPARTANA

4310 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Homestead High School

Winter months offer opportunity to help others
News, Page 3

Holiday how-to: what to make, bake and see
Diversions, Page 6

Boys bowling ranked first
Sports, Page 4

School days until Winter Break:
12

School district nears final decision on where to make budget cuts

Part 2: The Solutions

steve appel
coeditor in chief

The school district is continuing to discuss and create solutions to funding problems. SACS is suffering from these changes more than in the past because of two reasons. First, the district's cash balance, which has helped support the schools over the past several years, is diminishing. Secondly, the student growth rate has slowed, resulting in less additional funding.

"Each year we have eaten up our cash balance, and that has helped support us over the years," superintendent Dr. Brian Smith said. "We've had some years of high student growth, and those extra dollars helped, but now we're in a position where cash balance has dwindled. Our growth this year has been moderate compared to last year."

Unable to rely on increased growth, the district's goal is to solve the problem at the legislature level. A public meeting was held on Nov. 1 concerning how to fix the legislative problem.

State legislators met with district parents and administrators to discuss state-level changes. SACS hopes future legislation would prevent additional tax money from referendums from being considering in the state funding formula. Another possibility would include moving part of the tax dollars from the Capital Projects Fund, used mainly for building maintenance, to the General Fund, which is the daily operating budget. Issues were also discussed concerning teacher retirement funds and prime time funding.

"I think the legislatures gave us a good direction to go," district business manager Jim Coplen said. "They said we need to band together with some other schools in the state with the same kind of problems, and then bring it to the legislature. I think they were supportive of what we said, at least a couple of them were, and they gave us some good suggestions as to where we should go from here."

An initial public meeting was held on Oct. 24 to discuss what items could be cut. Coplen distributed three pages of proposed cuts at the assembly. Other ideas were also taken from parents. In all, about 175 board members, school employees, and parents attended the meeting.

"We want to throw the possible cuts out to the public, because a lot of those affect kids obviously of parents in the district," Coplen said. "We wanted to see what their thoughts were on specific programs, and which ones they felt really emotional or passionate towards and why that was."

Originally, possibilities includes cutting the elementary level specials from twice a week to once a week. A similar possibility was to eliminate the middle school "skills for adolescence" class. Another method included combining some of the smaller sized class at the Homestead into larger classes. Even more drastic would be completely eliminating some programs from Homestead. These ideas have since been eliminated.

A second meeting was held on Nov. 14. This meeting's objective was to make more specific decisions on what areas to cut and to eliminate ideas that were not feasible. A shortened list of proposed cuts was distributed, consisting of one page as opposed to the initial three page proposal.

This list included issues that will not have a direct effect on the education of the students. These sorts of cuts include eliminating the district newsletter or support staff. Another possibility is altering the ALPHA program so it has more self-contained students.

"I think the focus of the board is to try to make these cuts and have the least amount of impact as possible as far as classroom students," Coplen said.

The school board will meet on Dec. 5 to make the final decisions on what changes to implement.

AFTER WEEKS OF PREPARATION, "We the People" participants finally had a chance to prove their knowledge of the United States Constitution at the district competition on Nov. 9. The students were each assigned a topic, ranging from "How did the Framers Create the Constitution?" to "What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?" They had researched and staged mock competitions since Sept. and are now preparing for state competition.

photo | jenn vang

Making history come ALIVE

'We the People' team places first at district competition, proving the Constitution is applicable to everyday life

meredith edwards
writer

Keith Potter's third period AP government class has begun preparations for state-wide "We the People" competition after winning the overall district championship held at Homestead on Nov. 9. They will travel to Indianapolis for the contest on Dec. 20.

"We the People" is a simulated Congressional hearing. Several students in a group prepare a four minute presentation on three questions covering the unit that participants are involved in. On the day of competition, judges pick one of the topics given. The group then gives their presentation, and when finished, the judges have six minutes to ask follow-up questions about the presentation and the topic. The judges ask the same questions to each school competing, but they are unknown until given. The students are scored on their presentation, total group participation, along with how well they can respond to the questions.

"We prepare in class for both, the four minute presentation is a large part of the score, but (for the questions) the students must also have an enlarged knowledge of the topic," Potter said.

The competition is divided into six units taken from the "We the People" textbook, ranging from early American history to modern time. Questions range anywhere from the Constitution to the Bill of Rights. Students are placed into groups of three or four to a unit. These groups can receive awards for their own unit but there is also an overall team award.

District competition, which drew close to a hundred individuals from area schools, was held at the school for the first time this year. In addition to the overall competition, Homestead won three of the six unit awards presented.

photo | jenn vang

PRECEDING COMPETITION, students were given a chance to meet the judges that would be critiquing them. Gil Haynie (12) talks with lawyer John Bloom.

To prepare for the upcoming state competition, the team will write their essays, work on their presentations, and conduct mock hearings. The mock hearings are sample presentations done in class to prepare the team to be judged.

"We just got our new material and questions for the state level," Sarah Schomburg (12) said. "The questions are harder, but the group is excited to be able to compete at the state level."

Completing the Constitution, 1787:
July 26– Five delegates begin drafting the Constitution, which they present to the full Constitution convention on August 6.
August 6-September 10– Delegates debate the first draft of the Constitution. Another five delegate committee begins to prepare a final document.
September 17– Committee presents final draft to the rest of the convention. Of the delegates remaining in Philadelphia, 39 sign the document.

allison rahrig
news editor

Truth & Consequences

Four students are caught and fined for vandalism of school property

Four students have been caught and charged with the Sept. 21 vandalism that caused extensive damage to the school's outside security locks. The locks were filled with afomafill and epoxy glue, preventing faculty and other staff members from swiping their clearance cards.

Over $2,300 was spent repairing the locks, including the cleanup chemicals and labor. The students, whom principal Dianne Moake declined to name, are footing the bill for these costs.

"I feel what they did caused serious damage to the school's property and that the consequences were just," Moake said.

Several years ago, the school installed numerous outside security cameras for use during incidents such as this. However, due to the type of cameras installed, nothing was seen the night of the vandalism. One reason for this is that current security cameras are not sensitive to low-light situations, making taping at night difficult. Special cameras would be necessary for night vision or low light.

"There is a concern that the cameras on the outside of the building don't record a clear image in low-light situations," Moake said. "We're looking to see if we need to do something different with the security cameras to ensure that we have a good system."

Additionally, the same morning the locks were noticed, it was also discovered that several thousand dollars worth of damage had been done to the school's football field. Weed killer was used to burn the words "Class of 2001" and "Seniors Rule" across the 50 yd. line. A police report has been filed, and an investigation is underway, but as of now, no arrests have been made.

The school does not currently have a clear-cut explanation of what type of activity is classified as a senior prank. Nevertheless, if the activity in question violates other school rules, repercussions can be expected.

"We don't have a definition of senior prank, but if it violates school rules there will be consequences if the student is caught," Moake said. "If it's going to damage property, harm people, or create an unsafe situation, there will be consequences."

The four students responsible for vandalizing the school on Sept. 21 have been charged with paying cleanup costs.

Introducing Dr. Nancy Carey...

Assistant superintendent adjusts

ben jones
assistant news editor

After several months without an assistant superintendent, the school district has filled the administrative vacancy with Dr. Nancy Carey. She will be involved with many different projects that directly involve the school system.

The previous assistant superintendent, Dr. Toni Kring, resigned last June. She decided on a career change after serving with SACS for several years, Her responsibilities, before Carey's hiring, were delegated to principals and other administrators through the school system.

"It's been hard to focus on issues I should spend more time on. It has been difficult to do a good job," said superintendent Dr. Brian Smith.

Carey was hired from a pool of several prospective applicants. The school placed an advertisement and then assessed the applications.

"We reviewed her application, and did a formal screening to ensure she was right for the position," Smith said.

Carey was eventually chosen, and she moved into her new position. She will be involved with school curriculums and will work to keep them updated with the current statewide educational standards. She will be involved with many different projects throughout SACS.

"I will be mainly working as a facilitator, working with different projects within the school system," said Carey.

The goal is for Carey to remove the extra burden from those who have been working in place of Kring. For now, Carey will be focusing on learning her job and becoming acquainted with the people and projects she will be working with.

"I will be working with different projects in the school system for awhile before I can begin to take over responsibility of them," said Carey.

Carey has recently been spending time in the school system learning her job and the SACS schools. Working with students will play a small role in her job. She appreciates student ideas, but her job will more directly relate with teachers and administrators.

"I've been pleasantly surprised to see the active role students here take in their school and community," Carey said. "At one meeting, I watched a Homestead student government representative bring forth a petition about a particular budget cut."

Once Carey steps completely into her new job, she will be acting as a leader for projects and will be aiding others with their individual jobs and responsibilities. The goal is to ensure that everything runs smoothly, to complete projects, and to keep things up to date.

"One of the best parts of my job will be my ability to mentor others, helping others accomplish their goals and projects," Carey said.

Following the loss of Toni Kring as assistant superintendent, Dr. Nancy Carey was hired to replace her. For now, she is going through the process of learning her job and learning the way of the school system. Eventually, she will be working with projects involving class curriculum and student education within SACS.

EDITORIALS

The Editorial Review

Final vote on block...

On Dec. 13, the faculty and staff will be meeting to vote for a final time on block scheduling. If 75 percent of the faculty vote in favor of block scheduling, plans will move forward for the Block 8 schedule. On Dec. 6 and 11 the administration will be holding meetings where teachers will be allowed to ask questions about how block scheduling will be implemented. If the plan passes, teachers will be trained for a year, and block will be incorporated during the 2002-2003 school year. Students would then have four classes on one day, and three classes the second day. A special period called *Student Resource Time* would also be added to students' schedules. This time period would be used for anything that interupts the normal school day, such as assemblies.

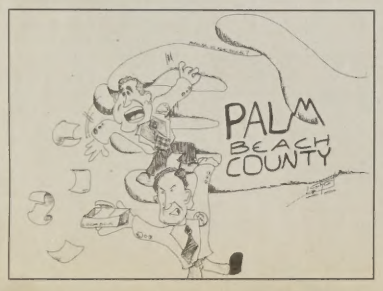
Spartana encourages faculty members to vote against the proposal.

Editorial Board Vote: 1 in favor, 3 opposed

A heartfelt thank you...

Homestead Students & Staff:

On October 6th I was involved in an auto collision, in which I broke my back. Many of you have shown much concern during my ordeal, and I am very thankful for it. Thank you for all your care and support.



drawing | shlomo goltz

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The Spartana is a bimonthly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to educate, enlighten, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Staff members of *The Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the paper. Students will be assisted by the adviser is areas of professional ethics and legalities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cindy Husar

Cindy Husar is an art teacher at Homestead High School and a resident of Fort Wayne.

Fort Wayne an ideal place to live

Let me begin by stating that I love teaching at Homestead, however, I am very disappointed by the ill-informed statements frequently voiced here at HHS by many students, parents and teachers about life inside city limits. I am writing in response to the less than accurate portrayal of city life in Fort Wayne featured in Ms. Figel's editorial "City Provides Little Appeal to Residents." I was apprised of the fact that I lived in the middle of high crime rates and run down buildings. I had not realized that I was unhappy. If you have not yet realized it, I live in beautiful downtown Fort Wayne in the historic West Central neighborhood. I love it! I grew up beyond suburbia in the middle of corn fields. I loved it there also. By contrast, however, I would much rather live IN Fort Wayne.

Love Fort Wayne? No, you did not misunderstand me. I love Fort Wayne. From my house I can walk to the downtown library, Zesto's, Coney Island, the Embassy Theatre, the Botanical Garden, Cindy's Diner, Henry's, the Artlink gallery, the Art Museum, several parks, antique stores, the Pfeiffer House, the original Munchie Emporium, Headwaters Park, the festivals, the Three-Rivers Festival fireworks and so much more. (Yes, I said walk. No, I am not afraid. No, I have never been a witness to a drive by shooting. No, I have never been mugged, nor has anyone broken into my house or car during the 12 years in which I have lived in downtown Fort Wayne.) In addition to the Fort Wayne amenities reached on foot, many other options within city limits exist, including The Bagel Station, all of the bowling alleys, Foster Park (an absolutely beautiful park), Lakeside Park, Cafe Johnell, the Rib Room, the Gas House, Takaoka, the mall, the University of Saint Francis art department gallery and football stadium, the not yet completed Jefferson Pointe, Hartley's, the Italian Connection, Casa D'Angelo, Chappell's Coral Grill, Catablu, the Bead Source, and too much more to list.

I also love my neighborhood. I love the old houses (my home was built in 1867). They are all so different, many featuring stained glass windows, pocket doors, dentils, brackets, parquet floors, columns and a vast array of colors-- I could go on, but that should suffice.

I also love the diversity of the people. Our neighborhood has a vast array of people with different financial, educational, racial, religious, cultural and life-style backgrounds. All of which can be appreciated by sitting on the curb at Zesto's and Broadway.

Fort Wayne has trendy areas in which to live. West Central being one of many. Other outstanding areas include the Williams Woodland neighborhood as well as areas on the south side by Foster Park and to the east around Lakeside Park and Parkview Hospital. Wonderful pockets of urban renewal are already occurring in areas around Creighton and Pontiac. People are moving back to the cities, in Fort Wayne and in urban areas around the country.

While I think Ms. Figel's intent was positive, the views which she expressed do not paint an accurate picture. I encourage Ms. Figel and others to utilize and appreciate the opportunities in Fort Wayne. I also hope that graduates of Homestead will recognize living inside the city limits as a viable and wonderful alternative to suburban life.

Cindy Husar

Mark Hannon

Mark Hannon is an English teacher at Homestead High School and a resident of Fort Wayne.

City provides plenty of enticements

This letter is in response to Emily Figel's editorial in the November 3, 2000 issue of *the Spartana* entitled "City provides little appeal to residents." In the article, Emily argues that businesses booming both northwest and southwest of the city have "had reverse effects" on downtown Fort Wayne. Emily urges her readers to "make a concerted effort to improve the quality of the city" to create "a city that we can all take pride in," as "no one wants to live in a high crime area filled with run down buildings." As a home owner living in a historic downtown Fort Wayne neighborhood, I would like to argue that Fort Wayne, an All-American City, is a city in which we can all hold a tremendous amount of pride.

Downtown Fort Wayne is host to a plethora of signature attractions for both residents and tourists to enjoy including: the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory; the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo; the Fort Wayne Museum of Art; Science Central; the Embassy Centre and Theatre; and The Lincoln Museum. The recently-restored Allen County Courthouse is listed on the National Historic Register, and the Allen County Public Library boasts the country's second largest genealogy department.

Further, I disagree with Figel's assertion that "the quality of life in the city of Fort Wayne is less than in suburban regions." Contrary to Figel's testimony, I believe West Central Fort Wayne is a "nice, safe, place to live." Because of my location, not only am I privy to many of the aforementioned signature attractions of Fort Wayne, but I am also within walking distance of them; additionally, I have never felt unsafe en route to any of these locations while venturing on foot. While Figel concludes "the trend is to move away from downtown Fort Wayne," I contend quite the opposite. The growing trend across the United States, including Fort Wayne, is to reclaim and revive historical districts; while new buildings are continually "lining the streets in Southwest Allen County," the trendy and treasured historic sites of the city remain in the downtown district.

The city of Fort Wayne is filled with a vast wealth of cultural and educational opportunities waiting to be explored. The city does not need "high rise apartments and trendy housing additions" to add to the magic that other big cities possess. I challenge each reader to take a carriage ride downtown, to visit the Old City Hall Historical Museum, to explore the Firefighters' Museum and Cafe, to investigate the Swinney Homestead, to enjoy the Arena Dinner Theater, to frequent the Fort Wayne Cinema Center, to appreciate the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, or to patronize the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. In doing so, they will see that Fort Wayne is a city in which we can all take pride. Miss Figel, in the future, rather than concentrating on what downtown Fort Wayne lacks, I urge you to delight in and delve into the tremendous opportunities the city has to offer.

J. Mark Hannon

Minority or Majority- Who Really Elects?

It's become apparent after being bombarded with the contradiction and controversy regarding the election of our new president, the Election Day, despite its name, has little importance. The millions of votes that were cast across the country won't actually be used to elect the president. In fact it's the members of the Electoral College who will actually select and elect the President of the United States. The idea as to whether the Electoral College should be allowed to continue is an issue that rears its head every election year, only to die down until the next presidential election.

The Framers of the Constitution created the Electoral College for valid reasons. During America's infancy, travel was difficult, and therefore information was not as easily transmitted. Much of the populace didn't read and didn't have direct access to important issues. There were not national political organizations in existence as well. Because of this, the Framers of the Constitution feared that many regional candidates would divide the vote, so there would be no clear victor. The Electoral College originally protected the people from themselves, but with today's educated population, we no longer need that protection. The conditions that prompted the creation of the Electoral College no longer exist, so why should the College still be instituted?

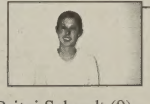
Today's Electoral College is more harmful than it is beneficial. It no longer protects or aids the populous in any way. The Electors often pledge to support a party's candidate, regardless of popular vote as well. Thus, voting in the Electoral College can become a partisan issue, which contradicts the reasons why the College was formed in the first place. Also, the "winner takes all" system of Electoral College makes it almost impossible for a third party to gain a victory in any state. Only two states (Nebraska and Maine) have laws that split the electoral vote proportionally based on popular vote. So in the other 48 states, it is possible that the candidate who won the popular vote can actually lose the electoral vote.

It stands to reason that in any aspect of a Democratic Republic that doesn't represent the wishes of the majority, by definition isn't accomplishing what it is supposed to. Therefore, the Electoral College should be forsaken in favor of a direct popular vote, or at least altered to vote proportionally. Although seemingly risky, it is sometimes necessary to reinvent the wheel in order to achieve beneficial progress. The United States' inherently republican based government works well in most situations by allowing decisive decision making that is representative of the people's wishes. However when applied to elect the President of the United States (in the form of the Electoral College), it can misrepresent the American people. Only the restoration of a direct popular vote or the creation of a modified Electoral College can fulfill the needs of today's America.

Shlomo Goltz

different voices

What one word would you choose to have tattooed across your forehead?

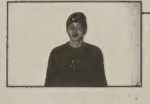


"I probably wouldn't have it done because I'd regret it later."

Britni Schaadt (9)

"I just wouldn't do it because there is no word worth tattooing on my forehead."

Thomas Motter(10)



"I would have Pollux written on it. He's the twin god of destruction. It would look really cool in tribal writing."

Neal Schoeler(11)

"Cat, because I like cats."

Jon Johnson (12)

HEADLINES

Lending a helping hand

Special needs gives back to community

ashleigh lambert
intern writer

Three projects run by the special needs department are helping out the community as well as helping special needs students develop skills.

As the recipient of a grant for community service projects, students in the department will help science teacher Doug Waldman collect and recycle soda cans. They will help Waldman, who has been picking up pop cans for years around campus after school on his own time.

"They (special needs students) pick up cans in different places, like the cafeteria and teachers' lounges, and crush them," Waldman said. "I think it's great because it gives them a project for a cause within the school. Plus, aluminum cans aren't being wasted and the money is going to a good cause."

The money raised by recycling the cans goes towards fixing up the climbing wall in the environmental center and paying for taxidermy work in the lodge. Though no one has ever kept track, the money earned in the past is estimated at $100 to $150 per year.

"Our goal is to double Mr. Waldman's current income to between two and three hundred dollars a year," said special needs teacher aide Susan Will. "I think it's a goal we can reach."

Not only does the project benefit the environmental center, it gives students an opportunity to learn and to practice skills that would be useful in the workplace.

"All of these service learning projects have English, math, and vocational curriculums embedded in them," Will said.

Though the project is successful, Waldman believes there are ways it could be improved.

"Students could do a better job of putting cans in the barrels marked for that purpose," Waldman said. "Getting the cans in there is important."

The band is already contributing by donating all the pop cans they use during their season. Will added that anyone who wants to contribute cans or share ideas about how to make the school or community a better place can contact the office, and the message will be passed on to the special needs department.

"Many times, we can say 'yes' to new ideas," Will said.

Recycling cans isn't the only activity special needs students are doing. For the third year in a row they are hard at work on their CARE shop. Through CARE, which stands for Challenged And Ready Everyday, 16 students make and sell gift cards to raise money for the department.

"They do everything," Will said. "It's like a little factory, with different stages of products being developed."

Through the project, students develop counting skills, following directions, verbalizing questions, and other vocational skills.

"They want to show off their strengths," Will said. "It lets them sparkle."

Will added that having such involvement with the community gives the students a chance to help out to the school and community.

"Too much of the time, people give to them," Will said. "This is an opportunity for these kids to give back. They can concentrate on what they can do, instead of what they can't."

Aside from the small amount of money that is set aside to buy new equipment, most of the profits from the CARE shop are donated to the St. Peters sack lunch program, where the students volunteer two to three times each month.

"The sack lunch program meets the need for weekend help for the needy community," CARE director Tanya Hack said. "Most soup kitchens are only open on weekdays."

The money from the project is used to buy plastic bags, brown bags, and napkins. Will noted that donations of these items are always welcome, and can be made through the front office.

"We incorporate going to the grocery store, cost comparison, and other life skills with this project," Will said.

In addition to these projects, the students also make gift packs, which include note pads and stickers, for kids at Lutheran Hospital using CARE materials. They also participate in distributing the gifts, which fosters communication skills.

"One of our students, Emily Porter, went to clown school," Hack said. "She's going to dress up and be our leader."

The department is very satisfied with the success of their current projects, and more ideas are in the works.

"This is just the beginning," Will said.

Both Will and Hack said that the service learning projects could not be possible without "tremendous support from the administration."

"From the superintendent to the principal, they deserve a lot of credit," Will said. "They really share the vision."

The CARE system has aided both the special needs students and those who were in need around Fort Wayne.

Student Government organizes Adopt-A-Family

viktoria hutorskaya
writer

Following a suggestion made by school administrators, Student Government has for the first time incorporated the area Adopt-a-Family project into their community service work.

"This is the first year we are doing the Adopt-A-Family program," senior class president Jessica Robertson (12) said. "Each year student government does community service project. "

Although Student Government is orchestrating this fund-raiser for needy families, students will not have contact with the families they are helping.

"We won`t see the families we are helping," Robertson said. "The only information that we are given are their first names, sizes of clothes, interests and medical conditions."

Students work through a representative from the Allen County Christmas Bureau, who delivers wrapped presents . This establishment takes responsibility for an adopted family. It is required that those who adopt families provide a new outfit, toy, or gift for each family member. Items can be either new or used, but they must be in good condition.

"All fund-raising will be spent for new outfits and gifts for family members. We also need to provide Christmas dinner," Robertson said.

Groups who decide to adopt a family have the option of choosing the number of members they will be able to support. Homestead is helping by adopting families of all sizes. These families have been distributed among classes and school clubs.

"Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors are raising money for large families, which consist of five or more members," Robertson said. "Organizations such as publications, cheerleaders, Key Club and a Homestead Christian group have taken smaller families."

Raising money for the adopted families is based on competitive principles. Penny Wars provide a fun and interesting means of raising money. Though all classes compete, money that is raised will be divided equally among the families.

"Actually it doesn't make any difference which class has raised more money," said Robertson. "Money will be divided equally among all the families."

Since these adopted families have extremely limited resources they are not capable of paying for luxuries that others can afford.

"Most of the families we are helping are capable of paying their bills but they don`t have any extra money for presents," said Robertson. "Some of the family members have disabilities or cancer which prohibits them from working, without the help of the Christmas Bureau, hundreds of families would not have a Christmas."

Raising money for the Adopt-A-Family project has been successfully run project.. Student government is satisfied and expects to raise enough money to help make the holidays a special event for many local families.

Key Club offers outlet for holiday giving

emily figel
associate editor

Now that the holiday season has arrived, Key Club is even busier than usual. The club is trying to ensure that families have plenty of food and warm clothing for the winter.

"We have a lot of new projects for the Christmas season," president Leslie Rasp (11) said. "As usual, we have a family that we buy presents and necessities for. We also have a bake sale and walk-a-thons coming up."

In addition to helping citizens in the community, Key Club provides different sources of entertainment for all to enjoy during the holidays. That way, people are able to feel the holiday spirit.

"We have a key club jazz band and drama troop," secretary Anisha Gandhi (12) said. "Our jazz band has performed at the mall and in Covington Plaza. And, the drama troop performs at retirement communities and nursing homes."

Holiday projects consume much of the members' time. However, the normal weekly projects do not come to a standstill because of the special Holiday season. Key Club still holds their meetings and has the breakfast bar available for students to grab a quick bite to eat before school.

"The breakfast bar is our biggest fund-raiser," treasurer Chris Hershberger (11) said. "We have it (the breakfast bar) open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday."

Through all of the projects, Key Club accumulates a lot of money. However, the organization keeps little of the profit.

"A lot of Key Club is volunteering our time, services, and providing man power to help people," Rasp said. "Most of the money that we do raise goes directly back into the community."

Key Club is a good opportunity to become involved in the community. Homestead's Key Club is one of the premier clubs in the state of Indiana. Each April they attend a convention and compete in district 15 against other area clubs.

"The competition is usually stiff," Rasp said. "We usually do well. We get a lot of individual board member awards. This year we are aiming to get outstanding club of the year."

Key Club is an opportunity to meet new people and become involved in the community at the same time.

For students who are not presently a member of Homestead's Key Club, it is fairly easy to join. The meetings are every Thurs. at 2:50 in room 711. In order to be a member, a $10 membership fee and an average of one community service hour per month is required.

photo | neil bedwell

WRAPPING THE BANISTER, **Key Club Members Anisha Gandhi(12) and Amy Ring(12) decorate a staircase. Key Club volunteers their time to Ceders on a weekly basis.**

photo | amy ring

ADDING THE LIGHTS Joanna Cornwell(12) prepares a Christmas tree inside the Ceders building. Students came in to decorate for the holidays while others interacted with the Ceders residents. Ceders is a home for disabled women who no longer possess the ability to take care of themselves and who are unable to live alone.

News Briefs

CABARET NIGHT, AN ANNUAL EVENING OF MUSIC AND FOOD, will take place this year on Jan. 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the school's cafeteria and auditorium. Activities before the concert include desserts, raffles, and even an auction. Class Royale and Elite show choirs will be performing, along with Woodside Middle School's show choir, Class Act. The purpose of the night to raise funds for all three choirs.

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY: The 2001 Dance Marathon will be held Feb. 23 through Feb. 24. The event will open at 8:00 p.m. Friday and end at 8:00 Saturday. Dance partners need to raise $300 to participate. Monetary awards will be given to the couples who raise the most money. Dancers can expect line-dancing, karoke, and Tae-bo throughout the 24 hours. Registration for the marathon will be the week of Jan. 8-12. Coordinators for the event are strongly encouraging male/female couples, as these couples will receive first priority. Students wishing to compete in the "Midnight Madness" 3 on 3 basketball tournament, should organize teams and register at the time of dancer registration.

Calendar

December 2–Semiformal 8-12 p.m.

December 6–Winter Scenes 7:00 p.m.

December 20-January 3–Winter Break

January 10-12–First semester exams

January 12–Half-day for students

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Star athletes sign letters of intent

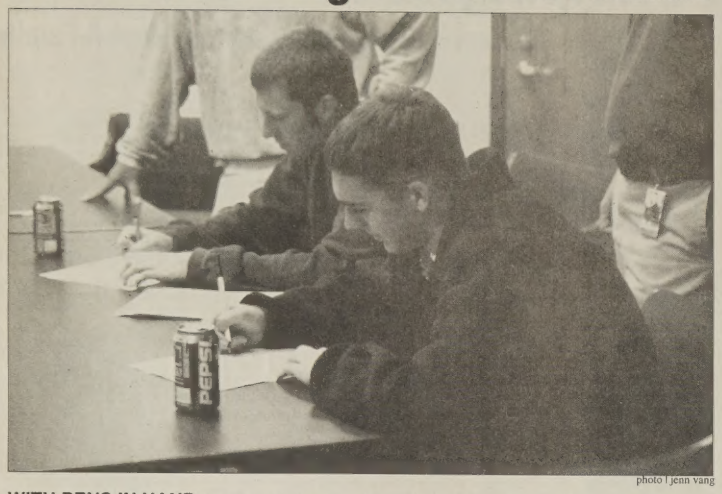

photo | jenn vang

WITH PENS IN HAND, Ryan Recht (12) and R.J. Sanfrey (12) sign letters of intent on Nov. 22. Recht signed with Indiana University and intends to play tennis. Recht was recruited by several Big Ten and MAC schools before he arrived at the decision of accepting the scholarship offered by Indiana. In his four years in high school, Recht has played varsity tennis each year, and advanced with the team to state four consecutive years. At the signing, Sanfrey declared his intent to go to Miami University (Ohio) to play baseball. He attended a baseball camp there last year. Sanfrey is originally from Ohio. He has wanted to go to Miami since his freshman year.

In the spotlight
Ian Wilson

photo | andy borgmann

With experience and skill, Ian Wilson (12) plowed through the cross country season, and advanced to the state competition. With a fourteenth place finish at the Manchester semi-state, Wilson qualified for state. There, he placed 48 with a time of 16:31.

Spartana: How long have you been running?

Wilson: "This is my seventh year. I started in sixth grade. I moved to Southwest Allen Country Schools in sixth grade, and I wanted something to do to meet people around here."

Spartana: What other activities are you involved in?

Wilson: "I did wrestling my freshman year. Right now I'm swimming. I do track too."

Spartana: What are your plans for the future?

Wilson: "I'd like to run in college. I want to major in biology or chemistry and then go on to dental school."

Spartana: Do you run in your spare time?

Wilson: "Right now I do, a couple times a week."

Spartana: Did you feel the team made good progress this year?

Wilson: "Not as much as we would have liked. We looked strong at conference. Once the sectionals and everything started, we really didn't have a full team. I think we could have done a lot better had we been healthier."

Spartana: What do you feel the role of a captain plays in the team's attempts to success?

Wilson: "Keeping everybody together, encouraging them, make sure they do the workouts, help each other out."

Spartana: How did you feel about competing with the best runners in the state?

Wilson: "It was definitely an experience. I do a couple other big races. I knew what to expect. I had ran the course a couple times. I kind of knew how the course went, so that made it easier. I wasn't as nervous as what I thought I was going to be."

Hockey faces off with area schools

meredith edwards
writer

Homestead's hockey club has plunged into their season and growth can already be seen. A new coach, additional players, and more ice time have been major contributions to their advancement.

"We have such a different team this year that it is hard to tell if our improvement is because of them or because we have more ice time," Reed Nicholson (12) said.

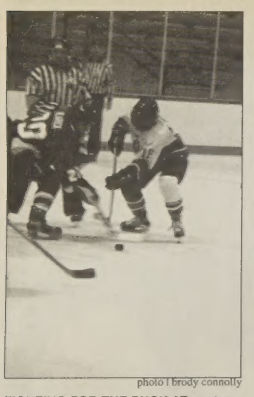

photo | brody connolly

FIGHTING FOR THE PUCK AT center ice in a face off, Adam Dunn (12) struggles with an opponent to gain possession for the Spartans.

So far this season the hockey team has won two city games. Homestead won 7-2 against New Haven on Nov. 21. They also beat North Side earlier in the season. The first win boosted the team's moral and allowed them to have a better attitude while going into the next game.

Having goals in mind are important for the team as they strive for the playoffs. Though March is a long way off, the team already has hopes to go far in the city wide tournament held.

"I would like to go pretty far in the city playoffs and the state wide tournament. I have a feeling we can do it," Ryan said.

Beginning March 6 the teams in the area will compete in city playoffs. Along with city games the team travels throughout Indiana for more game time experience.

"Crossover games matter more for equal playing time for each player," Nicholson said. "We have to have a certain number of games to qualify for the State tournament. These games help the guys moral when we win."

Due to the completion of a new ice rink in Fort Wayne, the players have been able to practice on the ice an hour and a half each week. Compared with only one hour of ice time last year this has helped a great deal. Availability of ice at more reasonable times is just one major benefit of the new rink.

"It is easy to see how the rinks have been freed up on the weekends," Nicholson said. "Also it is nicer because we don't get home at 12:30 a.m. like last year."

The team's next game will be held on Dec. 6. The team looks forward to improve their record.

Girls basketball season begins

photo | jen hiatt

While in the lane, Teri Gepfert (11) attempts to avert her defenders and pass to an open teammate.

melanie kuehnert
writer

The girls basketball season is underway. As the regular season unfolds, the team is striving towards gaining the experience they need to win games.

The beginning of the girls basketball season was Nov. 7 with a game against Elmhurst. The game resulted in a loss for the varsity, losing by 18 with a final score of 54-72.

"Our composure was good," Meredith Marcuccilli (11) said. "We made good decisions on offense. We needed more rebounding and we lacked aggressiveness."

With this being the first game, the team was nervous about playing with new players.

"I think as a freshman, I was very nervous in order to become a senior overnight to play in this kind of competition," Jennifer Kopecky (9) said. "I got my nerves out at that game. Now I am ready to play ball."

The teams have been practicing for four weeks. Even though it is still the beginning of the season, the coaches and players have a good idea of what the key to success this season will be.

"We know we need to block out and be more physical," coach Teri Rosinski said. "We also realized we did a lot of things very well against Elmhurst. I've seen a lot of improvement. Now we need to test ourselves against an opponent."

The first few games of the season are a good test for a team. Coaches are able to see what the girls need to work on to make the season better.

"We are a young team, but we definitely have size and quickness. So, I think we can make it if we try hard and are aggressive," Kopecky said. "I believe that we need to work together and be a team. Also, we need to lift hard and become stronger to dominate the boards and be a tough defensive team.

With that in mind, the team also has several strengths that were quickly noticed as the season began.

"We are quick and we make good decisions," Marcuccilli said. "We have people who can score."

Every coach has expectations for their teams. Rosinski's are for the team this year are to win the NHC and win sectionals.

"By rebounding, being strong and wanting it (we can win sectionals)," Rosinski said. "It all depends on how much they want it and how mentally strong they are."

The next game was against Bishop Dwenger, in which Dwenger won 34-37. The following game against Warsaw ended with a score of 53-82. The next game was another loss, against Huntington North. On Nov. 28 the team came away with their first victory, 66-51.

Bowling teams undefeated

Boys team ranked first in their division

josh gentry
sports editor

The Homestead bowling club has begun its season with a series of wins. Last year the girls team advanced to the state competition, providing some incentive for the teams this year. Each week, the team gathers on Sundays and Wednesdays to sharpen their skills at Key Lanes.

"Basically [we] just go over mental games, because mental attitude has a lot to do with it," Adam Motes (11) said. "We go over our forms and our approach."

The Spartans traveled to Pro Bowl Nov. 2 to face the New Haven Bulldogs for their first match. The boys team defeated the Bulldogs 17-3. The girls team tallied a win from a forfeit, since the Bulldogs did not have a girls team.

"I thought it was good for our team," Justin Smeltzley (11) said. "It puts us one step closer to going to state."

On Nov. 9, the Spartans visited Snider at Quimby Village. Both the boys and girls teams defeated the Panthers.

"We thought it was great," Molly McMaster (10) said. "We were so proud of ourselves that we had beaten Snider."

Coming off the win, the boys team was looking to improve their record when they met with Carroll at Hillcrest on Nov. 16. The boys team overwhelmed the Chargers with a score of 16-4.

"I think our coach was pretty happy," Smeltzley said. "He still thinks we need to practice a little more and get after it."

Carroll and Snider both advanced to the state finals last year and were given high seeds. The boys team is currently ranked first in their division, and the girls are ranked second. The team as a whole is currently working to become a school sponsored team, as opposed to being a club.

"We've got some good bowlers," head coach Mark Burbrink said. "We love the kids. My wife and I coach. We are about two years away from petitioning. As soon as we get the participation in the state."

Mike Miller, a Homestead P.E. teacher, became the link between the school and the bowling club. That is a necessary part of the process in starting a club. Miller has played an important role in starting the team by volunteering his time.

The teams are confident with their success and looking forward to the postseason.

"I think its been real fun," Motes said. " I think we're going to do pretty good this year. I like all the people I bowl with. The coaches make bowling fun."

The bowling matches are held each Thursday and home matches are held at Key Lanes on Goshen road.

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photo | jen hiatt

MATT SINGLETON (12) climbs out from under his defender after being tackled against Snider.

Football team's season ends in sectional finals

Snider wins on field goal in final quarter, Spartans unable to surmount late ralley

tracy kosmala
writer

After a triumphant season, the football team was defeated 24-21 by Snider in the sectional final. The team reached this point by defeating Northrop and South Side in earlier sectional games.

Both teams shared control of the game. Just when Homestead seemed to have the upper-hand, Snider kicked a field goal and established a three point lead. Homestead was not able to catch them before the game ended.

"We planned to beat Snider," coach Drew Wood said. "Our strength was that we had great senior leadership this year."

With the strength of their leadership and experience, the team ended their season strongly.

"We did pretty well," Keenan Crockett (12) said. "In the beginning we were a little uncertain, but as the season progressed we stepped it up."

The countless hours in the weight room finally paid off. The varsity team had a nearly flawless record this season. The only exceptions being an 30-31 overtime loss to eventual 4A state champions East Noble and the loss against Snider.

Many players had exceptional individual seasons as well. R.J. Sanfrey (12) was ranked number one in scoring with an average of eleven points per game. Matt Singleton (12) was also a NHC leader, receiving for an average of 102.6 yards per game. With 210.5 passing yards per game and 2,869 yards of total offense, Mike Rhinehart (12) was ranked first. Jay Dundon (12) tied East Noble's Darrin Taylor with four sacks, for best in the conference. Also, at the top of the charts was place kicker Mike Hines (10), who made 48 out of 53 extra points.

"For next year the varsity team should focus on conditioning, Crockett said. "They should spend more time in the weight room and running."

With the loss of 28 seniors, the team will need to work on building a quick and powerful team. Hopefully, next year's team will learn from the experience of this year's success and hard work.

photo | jen hiatt

THE PLAY COUNT is shouted by Mike Rhinehart (12) before Keenan Crockett (12) hikes the ball. Both players were named All-NHC this.

Taking charge

Seniors lead boys basketball team into 2000 campaign

steve appel
co-editor in chief

The boys basketball team heads into this year's season with three returning starters from last year. After opening the season with a last second loss to Harding, they rebounded to defeat Whitko.

In addition to the experience of the players, the team will also have a coach more familiar with the school and players. Head coach Chris Johnson's first year at the school was last year, and he is returning this season.

"We'll be good, because we have so many players returning," Erich Martin (10) said. "Also, it's not like last year where we had a new coach, so we know what to expect."

The Spartans will try to utilize their size this season. They are one of the taller teams in the area.

"We're going to do like we always due as far as with our motion offense," Johnson said. "We're going to move the ball around the perimeter and get good shots from an inside out game, because most teams are going to try to collapse on our big men."

The 73-72 loss was the second straight year the Spartans opened the season with a loss to the Hawks. The Spartans found themselves trailing by seven after one quarter, and by ten at the half. The Spartans took the lead in the waning minutes, but lost on a Harding shot at the buzzer.

"It was a tough loss; we lost by one," Martin said. "We should have beaten them, but I guess it's just a learning experience for us."

Harding was lead by Trai Essex's (12) 35 points and low post production. Rhinehart, Kyle Cleaver (12), Justin Furniss (12), and Martin all finished with double figures in points. Although the loss was emotionally difficult to the Spartans, they realized they had to move past it.

"It's just something you've got to live with," Rhinehart said. "You know it's happened, you can't do anything about it now."

On Nov. 25, the Spartans played their second game of the year, this time traveling to Whitko, and winning 74-63.

"We just had to play hard and we did," Rhinehart said. "We were hitting our free throws at the end. We worked it into the post a little bit, got an inside out game, and we really kicked it into second gear in the second half."

Before the second half surge, Whitko lead 35-30 at halftime. The Spartans than out scored Whitko 20-15 in the third quarter and 24-13 in the final period of play. Nick Ankenbruck lead the team with 19 points, followed by Cleaver's 18, Rhinehart's 16 and Furniss's 12.

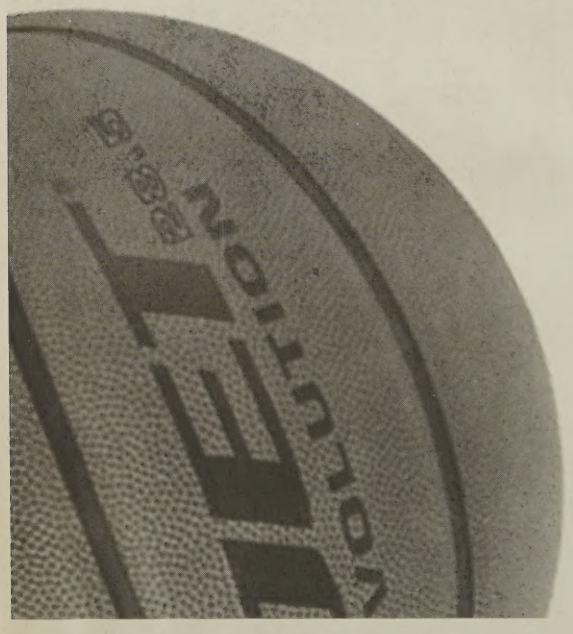
Whitko's style was much different than Harding's. Harding relies much more on speed, and Whitko's strength is their size.

"Mainly we just wanted to play good defense [against Whitko]," Martin said. "It didn't show as much, but we tried to play really good defense. Whitko's a lot different than Harding. Whitko's a slow it down team, Harding's a lot quicker than Whitko, and Harding's a lot bigger so we just needed to box out."

The boys basketball team has high expectations this season, and after splitting a pair of road games, they will play their first home game tonight. They will take on Wayne, a team which likes to utilize its quickness. Therefore, the Spartans will attempt to slow down the tempo in order to control the game.

photo | josh gentry

A SHORT JUMPER by Kyle Cleaver (12) goes just over the outstretched arms of Mike Rhinehart (12). The boys basketball team is currently 1-1, having played two road games. The Spartans lost their first game by one point against Harding. The team next faced Whitko and came away with a 11 point victory. The team thinks nerves may have had an impact on their loss. "We played real poor against Harding," Mike Rhinehart (12) said. "That was first game jitters maybe. We just didn't play well."



Homestead vs. Wayne

Homestead		Wayne	
Record: 1-1		**Record:** 0-1	
FG%: 53.9		**FG%:** 34.1	
3PT%: 35.3		**3PT%:** 33.3	
FT%: 78.6		**FT%:** 42.9	
Points leaders		**Points leaders**	
Mike Rhinehart	16.5	M. Stevenson	14
Kyle Cleaver	16.5	Mike Paige	7
Justin Furniss	13.0	Paul Freeman	6
N. Ankenbruck	12.5	Jama Wattley	5
Assists leaders		**Assists leaders**	
Justin Furniss	4.0	M. Stevenson	3
Mike Rhinehart	4.0	Anteus Williams	3
Erich Martin	2.5	A. Marshall	3
N. Ankenbruck	1.5	Paul Freeman	2
Rebounds leaders		**Rebounds leaders**	
Kyle Cleaver	8.0	Jacob Wyss	6
Mike Rhinehart	4.5	Mike Paige	4
Three tied with	2.5	Jamar Wattley	3
		Three tied with	2
Blocks leaders		**Blocks leaders**	
Mike Rhinehart	1.5	A. Marshall	1
Kyle Cleaver	0.5	Mike Paige	1
Justin Furniss	0.5	Jacob Wyss	1
Erich Martin	0.5		

Girls swim team looks for more success

matt young
writer

With a victory over Concordia the girls swim team, which consists of 24 swimmers and three divers, is preparing for another strong season. Senior leadership and team depth are keys for the season.

"We have only had one meet," Amanda Laux (12) said. "The majority of us swam well in the first meet, and the times were really good for the beginning of the season."

The strategy for this year is simple and straightforward. Both the coach and team know what they are capable of accomplishing. The ultimate challenge will be to perform up to their high expectations.

"We will win most of our meets," head coach Jeff Marble said. "Snider is still a big maybe though."

To win meets the team has to work and come together to accomplish their goal. Each swimmer has a specific responsibility to carry-out.

"We work well together as a team, and everyone has their own weak and strong points, but all together it evens out pretty nicely," Erin Johnson (10) said.

Among the strengths of the team is the senior leadership. The seniors play a crucial part in team chemistry.

"Our main role is to provide leadership for the younger members of the team," Laux said. "We make team decisions and plan team dinners. Basically, we try to keep the team united and to create good team chemistry."

Most team members are seasoned veterans of the sport, like Johnson who has been swimming for almost eight and a half years. Tracy Kosmala, a freshman on the team, has been swimming competitively since she was nine.

"I swim because I enjoy the competition and being part of a team," Kosmala said. "This is my first year swimming for Homestead, but I swam for Woodside last year and started swimming club when I was nine."

Although the team lost a considerable amount of seniors, they have gained back many in return to help lead the team to victory.

"We lost a couple of main swimmers," Laux said. "But, we gained a couple of string freshman. Overall, we have good depth in almost every event."

Throughout the preseason the team trained hard in preparation for a postseason run. Sectionals are a focus for the team, as well as beating Snider in an upcoming meet.

"This season we are concentrating on sectionals and state," Laux said. "That's what we train for all season long. Snider is our main competition in the area"

Meets will be twice a week once the season is in full swing. Most meets include events for both the boys and girls teams. Student support is greatly appreciated at these competitions by the swimmers. The next home meet will be on Dec. 7 against their rival Snider.

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WEEKEND DIVERSIONS

- Fort Wayne Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcraker," premieres Dec. 1 at the Performing Arts Center. Performances will also be give Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 7-10.
- The Embassy's festival of Trees features over 60 professionally decorated trees which will be on display from 12 p.m.- 8 p.m. now through Dec. 3.
- An admission of $3 allows one to view a display of Gingerbread houses at the Old City Hall Historical Museum. It is open now through Dec. 10.

Avoiding the rush of the holiday season

ashley dunn
diversions editor

Now that the holiday season is here, people rush from appointment to appointment, and the real meaning of the holidays is often overlooked. During this season people should be spreading cheer and looking for the positive qualities of others around them.

Due to many religious holidays scheduled toward the end of December, most people spend the month preparing for these holidays. The extra planning that is involved, in addition to other everyday obligations, make life hectic. In order to avoid the stress that comes from last-minute arrangements, people should begin organizing gifts and parties vance. Also, be sure to set as ..ne time to relax and spend some t..e with friends.

A big part of the holiday season is spreading cheer to friends, family, and strangers, alike. This holiday spirit can be done with a compliment or a gift. In the rush of the season, it is easy to forget that a gift does not have to be expensive to be appreciated. However, a gift should be something picked out specifically for the recipient.

As long as a gift is picked out with the individual in mind, it will spread cheer and make someone's day brighter. With that goal in mind, the holidays should be lighter on everyone's wallet. Also, when one suddenly realizes that they still need to buy a gift for a friend they will have money left to do so.

Another method that saves money is by making gifts. Calling a gift homemade, however, should not be code for a lower quality present. In fact, a homemade gift should have more thought and work put into it. The extra effort put into the gift is why some refer to homemade gifts as better presents than something that can be bought. Try cutting out words or pictures from a magazine that refer to an inside joke and pasting them on a box. Or, decorate the outside of a picture frame. The tools needed for these projects are household odds and ends and creativity. For step by step directions look at personalizing gifts with creativity.

Another idea to keep in mind when looking ..r a gift is that there is nothing that will bring a smile to a ..riend's face faster than food. Make old time favorites such as sugar cookies. , one could be more creative with a snowman bun. The ..ipes are below. Remember to bake double batches so that there are plenty leftovers to enjoy.

In the chaotic rush of holiday giving it is easy to become stressed. Take a minute to step back and admire your handiwork, which could be a nicely wrapped present, or a homemade gift. Or sit down and enjoy a dessert that just came out of the oven.

If one has the time, sit and enjoy a holiday movie such as, *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch Stole Christmas*, which was recently released. Movies also provide an opportunity to spend time with friends and family members. Pop an old holiday classic such as *It's a Wonderful Life*, into the VCR. For holiday movie reviews see recommendations from the *Spartana*'s review team. By staying relaxed, one will have a better attitude when handling the busy schedule that is sure to develop in December. Also, thinking of and planning gifts weeks ahead of time will eliminate stress. Most of all, the holiday season is about taking time to have fun and to brighten someone's day.

photos | © 1989 Warner Bros. Inc

The Grinch

Emily: *The Grinch* is an excellent holiday flick that is undoubtedly a must see movie. Not only is the cast funny, but the entire movie conveys a good message about the meaning of Christmas. The Grinch (Jim Carrey) provides a good mix of comedy, pessimism, and finally, Christmas cheer.

The Grinch is appropriate for all ages. It is comparable to *Toy Story* in that it is acceptable for children to watch, but also entertaining for adults.

★★★★☆

Jon: When I went to see *The Grinch*, starring Jim Carrey, I expected the slapstick comedy used in most of Carrey's other films. This was not the case. Carrey only exhibits his patented style a handful of times throughout the movie.

Besides this fact, I found the movie enjoyable. The Whos provide a convincing performance, and the plot line is superb. This would be a good movie for all to see.

★★★☆☆

Rebekah: As usual, I loved this movie mainly because of Jim Carrey. He can make any movie hilarious. Although *The Grinch* is typically thought of as a children's movie, this version of the story grasps the attention of teenagers and adults as well. Little kids wouldn't understand half of the jokes that Carrey makes, but older people do, and that makes the movie even more funny.

The unique costumes and makeup really add to the movie as well. The setting of the movie, Whoville, has fantastic details and is fun for children to see. This movie is great for people of all ages.

★★★★☆

It's A Wonderful Life

Emily: *It's A Wonderful Life* is definitely one of the great, classic Christmas movies. This film expresses the importance of living life to the fullest, especially during the holiday season. It shows how much each individual can change others lives, in a positive or negative way.

Although *It's A Wonderful Life* is old, and filmed in black and white, it holds meaning that is never outdated. It is a good movie to watch at least once a year to provoke thoughts of kindness.

★★★☆☆

Jon: Everyone can learn a valuable lesson from George Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life*. Bailey learns the hard way the true meaning of the holiday season. The film also depicts life in the 1920's

The only drawback with this film is its length. Some portions of the movie are a little slow, but all in all this is a great movie.

★★★☆☆

Rebekah: *It's A Wonderful Life* was filmed in the 1940's, but I have just now seen it for the first time. Most people are turned off by the black and white film, but it is actually a nice movie to watch.

The movie teaches the classic lessen of not taking anything, including your family, for granted.

photo | www.themeanone.com

Although the movie is long, it does contain a nice theme and classic holiday plot.

★★★☆☆

Christmas Vacation

Emily: This movie is hilarious! It may not have the deepest plot, but it will make anyone laugh...hard! Chevey Chase is absolutely ridiculous as he and his family host relatives for the holidays.

This lighthearted comedy is bound to make anyone thankful for their own Christmas traditions. The Griswolds are a diverse and all around weird family.

★★★★★

Jon: From the opening scenes of this film you will be laughing. Although some of the comedy may be a bit crazy, it strikes home most of the time.

The movie also shows that through the hectic Christmas times everything can turn out right. The heartwarming ending will cheer up anyone's day.

★★★★☆

Rebekah: *Christmas Vacation* is one of my all time favorite movies. It's the classic tale of a dysfunctional family that finally makes it through the trials and tribulations of the holidays. No one can forget the crazy amount of lights.

★★★★★

Lessons learned in holiday movies

Sugary Sensations

photo | kathryn sullivan

Jeweled Fruitcake

2 cups dried apricots
1 1/2 cups pitted dates
1 cup red and green candied pineapple
1 cup maraschino cherries
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
3 eggs

Heat oven to 300 degrees. Line loaf pan, 9 by 5 by 3 inches with aluminum foil; grease. Mix all ingredients and spread in pan. Bake about 1 3/4 hours or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. If necessary cover with aluminum foil during last 30 minutes of baking to prevent excessive browning. Remove from pan; cool. Wrap in plastic wrap; store in refrigerator.

*source: "An Old Fashioned Holiday," by Betty Crocker

Giant Gingerbread Kids

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup shortening
1/2 cup dark molasses
1/4 cup water
2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon ground all spice
Raisins or currants

Beat sugar, shortening, molasses and water in large bowl on medium speed 1 minute. Stir in remaining ingredients except raisins. Cover and refrigerate until chilled, 1 to 2 hours. Heat oven 375 degrees. Roll dough 1/4 inch thick on lightly floured cloth covered surface. Cut with 5 to eight inch gingerbread kid cutter. Lift cookies carefully onto ungreased cookie sheet. Decorate with raisins. Bake until set, 8 to 10 minutes; cool 3 minutes. Carefully remove from cookie sheet; cool. Decorate with frosting if desired.

*source: "110 More Cookie Recipes," by Betty Crocker

Snowman Buns

1 package active dry yeast
3/4 cup warm water
2 eggs
1/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup shortening
2 teaspoons ground nutmeg (optional)
1 teaspoon salt
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 egg, beaten

Dissolve yeast in warm water in large bowl. Add 2 eggs, the sugar, shortening, nutmeg, salt and 2 cups of the flour. Beaten low speed 30 seconds, scraping bowl constantly. Beat on medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Stir in remaining four until smooth. Cover and let rise in warm place about 45 minutes or until double. Stir down dough by beating 25 strokes. Turn onto lightly floured surface. Cut into 12 equal parts (each part will make 1 snowman bun) For each snowman, shape 1/2 of each part dough into oval , 4 inches long, for body. Shape little more than 1/2 of remaining dough into ball for head. Deeply press in 2 in two currants for eyes and a piece of dough for nose. Shape remaining dough into 4 inch roll. Cut in half and use for arms. Grease cookie sheet. Arrange snowman buns about 3 inches apart on cookie sheet. Let rise 45 minutes or until double. Brush with beaten egg. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

*source: "An Old Fashioned Holiday," by Betty Crocker

photos | ashley dunn

Butter Cookies

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
1 egg
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 tablespoons orange juice
1 teaspoon vanilla

In a bowl, cream butter and granulated sugar. Add egg, and beat mixture until light and fluffy. Add flour, baking powder, orange juice and vanilla; beat until well mixed. Cover; refrigerate until firm, 2 to 3 hours. Roll out dough, half at a time, 1/4 an inch thick on well-floured surface. Cut out with holiday cookie cutters. Place 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake in preheated 400 degree oven 6 to 10 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.

*source: "Holiday Cookies and Baking" by Favorite Recipes

Candy Cane Cookies

1 cup powdered sugar
1/2 cup margarine, softened
1/2 cup shortening
1 1/2 teaspoons almond or peppermint extract
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon red food color
1/2 cup crushed peppermint candy
1/2 cup granulated sugar

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Mix powdered sugar, margarine, shortening, almond extract, vanilla and egg in large bowl. Stir in flour. Divide dough in half. Tint 1 half with food color. For each candy cane shape 1 teaspoon dough from each half into 4 inch rope by rolling back and forth on lightly floured surface. Place 1 red and 1 white rope side by side and twist. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Curve top of cookie down to form handle of cane. Bake about 9 minutes or until set and very light brown. Mix candy and granulated sugar; immediately sprinkle over cookies.

*source: "An Old Fashioned Holiday," by Betty Crocker

Personalize a gift with creativity

Materials-
7 by 9 inch piece of cardboard
8 by 10 inch rectangle of fabric
scissors
glue gun and glue
5 by 7 inch picture
pen or pencil

Step one: Place picture on the back of the fabric. Center picture so that there is one and a half inches of fabric bordering all sides. Trace around picture.

Step two: Remove picture from fabric. Cut 1/4 inch inside of the lines just drawn.

Step three: Place picture in the center of the cardboard. One inch of cardboard should be bordering the picture on all sides.

Step four: Glue three sides of the fabric onto cardboard, lining up the hole in the fabric above the picture. (Note: The fabric should partially cover up the photo on all sides.)

Step five: On the side that was not glued down the fabric that hangs over the cardboard should be cut. All other fabric hanging over the edge should be glued to the back of the cardboard.

Step six: Decorate the fabric with sequins, buttons, or other knickknacks. To carry the theme further also try covering a binder and fill the cinder with empty picture holders.

Volume 31
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January 18, 2001

THE SPARTANA

4310 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Homestead High School

Wrestling prepares for NHC postseason meet Saturday
Sports, Page 4

Counting down to the New Year with student opinions
Diversions, Page 6

School prayer debate continues after Supreme Court ruling
Editorials, Page 2

Spartan Alliance travels to Arizona for competition

Marching band brings home first place honors

allison rahrig
news editor

Nearly three months after their fourth place finish at the ISSMA state marching band finals, the Homestead Spartan Alliance Band claimed first place overall, as well as in the Class A division, at the Fiesta Bowl National Band Championship held Dec. 29 in Phoenix, Az.

"It was really a grand finale for us," drum major Lesley Rasp said. "It was a reward for a season of hard work. None of this year's members have ever won a state championship. This was a sweet success."

The school's band was just one of 16 competing at the championship. The University of Notre Dame's marching band also performed.

"It's quite an honor to just get accepted to compete," band director Steve Barber said. "Most bands have to go through an application process with tapes and auditions. We've been to the competition previously, plus we have a very strong national reputation. We applied and were immediately accepted."

The all-day competition began with preliminary performances in the morning. The band achieved second place in both music and general effect, along with best visual during prelims. Homestead advanced to the finals with its show, "Reflections of Earth," by Gavin Greenway.

"A lot of us weren't even sure we'd make it to finals," Rasp said. "We weren't very refined or tuned, and we were going up against bands who don't have winters and are able to practice outside year-round. I think it goes to show that Indiana is extremely competitive when it comes to marching bands."

Nearly every region of the country was represented by marching bands, everywhere from Pennsylvania to Colorado. At the finals competition, Homestead won first place in the Class A division. Since they had the leading scores in music, visual, and general effect, they also won the Grand Master Trophy. This means that they were the highest-scoring band in attendance, regardless of class division.

"I was real happy for the students," Barber said. "It's nice to know how we compare year to year with Indiana bands. But, it's also encouraging to know how we compare with the nation."

The six-day winter break trip included other activities for band members, including the 30th annual Fort McDowell Fiesta Bowl Parade. The 3.1 mile parade was held in downtown Phoenix on Dec. 30.

"There were about 18 other marching bands in the parade," Rasp said. "Some strictly travel around competing in parades."

With all of the practice and performance time in Arizona, band members still found time to socialize and see the sights of the southwest. The students traveled to the Grand Canyon, and spent another day at Rawhide, an old western town in Phoenix. A party was even held for all the marching band participants on New Year's Eve.

"My favorite part of the trip was going to a ranch," Rasp said. "I'm sure people who live out west would laugh at our excitement over these little mountains, but coming from Indiana it was really something. We climbed mountains, took a horseback ride, cooked out, and went on a hayride. It was really fun."

After a tough competition season, the Homestead Spartan Alliance Band was rewarded with a national Class A division win and a Grand Master's trophy.

Arizona by the numbers

210 Band members who attended the Arizona trip

3.1 Miles in the Fiesta Bowl Parade

6 Total days spent in and enroute to Arizona

16 Number of bands at national competition

4 Number of students in a hotel room

2 Number of beds in a hotel room

Students brave pilot problems and cancelled flights

allison rahrig
news editor

Homestead's Spartan Alliance marching band performed in the Fort McDowell Fiesta Bowl Parade and competed in the Fiesta Bowl National Band Championship. They also spent several days basking in the warm Arizona sunshine. Traveling home, however, did not go as smoothly.

Because of the large number of students, they broke into groups, and several different flights had to be scheduled to get the entire band back to Indiana. One of the group's flights to Fort Wayne was cancelled due to a shortage of pilots. The group split up and half flew to Indianapolis, while the other half traveled to Chicago. The students who landed in Chicago encountered more obstacles upon arrival. Their flight to Fort Wayne was cancelled due to freezing rain.

"It really wasn't a big problem, just a minor inconvenience," Barber said. "It could have been worse. The airport gave the [students] vouchers and put them up in hotels for the night."

Even though the band met challenges on the way from their trip, they still had the positive thoughts of a successful stay in Arizona.

photo | andy borgman

RECENTLY, FORT WAYNE experienced a winter storm unlike any in recent memory. Ice, sleet, and freezing rain accompanied the snow that fell during the month of December. In addition to area school closings, many businesses were also closed. Due to these numerous cancellations, first semester finals were pushed back one week. The last day of finals will be tomorrow morning, after which students can leave at 10:30. Tuesday, Jan. 16 was used as one makeup day for students, but students and staff will have to attend on President's Day, Feb. 19, as well.

Aboite plans new community park

rebekah van drake
copy editor

Soon Southwest Allen County will have a new park for residents to enjoy. Community members felt Aboite township could benefit from an area park.

"A group of parents who travel to playgrounds like the one in Leo-Cedarville decided that we could really use one and badly needed one for our area," volunteer Stacy Zurawski said.

The playground will be named Three Rivers Junction and will be available to all residents. Land has been secured from the township, and the park is in the process of being designed.

"We hired a firm, Leathers and Associates, to design the playground and help us build it," Zurawski said. "Our playground will have a fort theme, with three walk ways resembling the three rivers in Ft. Wayne."

Funding for the playground will come from corporate donations, individual donations, and from fund-raising events. Some of these fund-raisers will be raffles, in which five Peg Perego cars will be given away. Also, there will be a t-shirt drive, and a brick drive. The brick drive consists of people paying 60 dollars to have a brick engraved with their name on the pathway of the Three Rivers Junction playground.

"Funding will come from donations and funds from different foundations in our area that we have applied to," Zurawski said. "We will also count on the donated services and products to build the park. It will be built completely by volunteers."

As many as 3,000 volunteers will be organized for the building day. Children and students can also be used for committees and for the actual building days.

"Children can be involved during the week who are ten years and older with an adult," Zurawski said. "Older Children can volunteer during construction. They must sign up in advance, and we can only use 60 teenagers a shift helping with child care, serving food, and construction."

The building days for the playground will be May 15-20. Volunteers and donations are needed for this park, which will benefit all residents in the area.

Winter play uses original work to depict student life

Performances of "Yearbook" are tonight, Sunday, and Monday

emily figel
associate editor

This year's winter play is currently in production. Entitled "Yearbook", it is a collection of scenes that apply to the life of a high school student. Opening be tomorrow, and there are performances Sunday and Monday night as well.

"For the winter production, we try to find something that has to do with the overall high school experience," drama director Ed Koczergo said. "I think the students will really enjoy it. There are a lot of things for students to identify with. It's thought provoking."

"Yearbook" earned its name because the play is strung together by four students looking through their newly printed yearbook. When they see various photos it triggers a memory, and they would do a scene about it.

"Most of the scenes are really funny," Abby Puff-Zakhi (12) said. "A few scenes are there to teach lessons and show that high school isn't all just fun and games. There are some serious topics, but overall it is a humorous play."

For the first year, some of the skits are written by Homestead students. The skits offer insight into weight loss, relationships, sports, popularity, self-esteem, and other issues that many high school students worry about.

"The skits make us realize what growing up is all about," Kate Schmidt (12) said. "Many issues shouldn't be taken so seriously. You can usually look back and laugh. It is laid back, sort of like a sitcom."

> "The skits make us realize what growing up is all about."
> **Kate Schmidt (12)**

Another aspect to this year's production of "Yearbook", is the use of music/video techniques that will be shown in between skits.

"There will be original music by Erik Mackey (12) and John McCormick (11)," Koczergo said. "Sometimes there are just songs, other times it is music and video that is shot by Josh Gentry (11), Naveen Nattam (12), and Grant James (11)."

Although "Yearbook" is scheduled during finals week, members of the cast and crew encourage students to come see the production.

"It is not a very long show, an hour and a half at the most," Puff-Zakhi said. "It will be a nice break from studying because it is eventful and funny."

Also, since the play is an original production, written and performed by Homestead students, it is a great opportunity to see fellow students in action.

"There is nothing better than seeing your peers in production," Koczergo said. "It's great to see people you know telling stories you understand and issues you deal with."

The next production Homestead will be doing is the spring musical, Grease. Tryout information will be available at a later date.

EDITORIALS

The Editorial Review

formal lunch undergoes positive change...

Year after year, Student Government holds the formal lunch in the days preceding the holiday break. However, due to the bad weather, the lunch was pushed back to next week. The lunch is supposed to be a nice change from the normal everyday lunch, but over the past few years, the event has not been up to par. Few students dressed up, and even fewer students enjoyed their food. This year, Student Government changed the event to make it cater to more students' wishes. They will still make the classic meal of turkey, salad, mashed potatoes, and stuffing available in the regular school lunch line, but all the other lines will still be open with the normal selections. Student Government's changes should make the formal lunch a more enjoyable occasion for all, and it will be more effective in raising school spirit.

Editor Board Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed

basketball rules cause uproar...

Last Friday, during the morning announcements, principal Dianne Moake announced new rules for the remainder of the basketball season. The changes included students being prohibited not only from bringing newspapers to the games but also from sitting in the front row. Students are also banned from the use of profanity and other derogatory remarks. These new rules were a result of recent disrespect towards opponents, fans, and referees. Administrators and students need to work together to develop an even more reasonable and effective solution.

Editor Board Vote: 1 in favor, 3 opposed

drawing | shlomo goltz

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The Spartana is a bimonthly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to educate, enlighten, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Staff members of *The Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the paper. Students will be assisted by the adviser is areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Rebekah Van Drake

AP students deserve weighted grades

Rebekah is a senior and works as copy editor for *the Spartana.*

In many schools around the country students who challenge themselves with more difficult classes are rewarded with weighted grades. Students at Homestead should receive the same treatment as people at other schools.

It is unfortunate that students who receive "B's in advance or honor courses are penalized on their grade point averages. Many believe that a "B" in an honors class is comparable to an "A" in regular classes.

Class ranks are often affected by the lack of weighted grades. Most students who opt to take honors or advanced classes will continue to challenge themselves in college. Most high level colleges that accept this type of student generally look at class rank and grade point averages. By taking honors courses and sacrificing the straight A's, their class ranks will suffer, not allowing them to be admitted to the college of their choice while they watch others who did not challenge themselves as much gain admittance to top colleges as a result of their G.P.A's and class ranks.

Students should not be discouraged from taking honors courses. Many of these classes challenge students to manage their time wisely and produce quality work. It would be unfortunate if students opted to take regular classes just to achieve a higher grade. They would be missing out on classes that give students a great amount of knowledge for their futures.

More importantly, honors and advanced placement classes better prepare students for college. These classes better simulate college courses where more and higher quality work will be expected in shorter periods of time. Also a plus, advanced placement classes allow students to possibly test out of some college courses.

Administrators should consider weighting grades for students who take more difficult classes. Perhaps more students would take honors courses and be more prepared for the amount of work they will have to do in the future. It is only fair for students who take the initiative to sign up for these classes, to be rewarded. Grade point averages and class rank would then more accurately reflect the student.

Alison Larkin

Allowance of publicized prayer biased

Alison is a junior and works as editorial editor for *the Spartana.*

Just when it seemed that the controversy over the separation of church and state in schools was reaching a resolution, a recent poll by *USA Today* showed that 71% of the population favor prayer in school. Even amidst a recent Supreme Court ruling showing society is adamant about protecting everyone's religious freedoms, the debate about whether that entails allowing various forms of religious worship in school wages on.

Santa Fe is a small Texas city with a high percentage of Christians. The dispute began there last year when complaints were made to the school board regarding a local high school's pregame ritual of a student-led prayer over the loudspeaker. Student led prayer is allowed, but the question sparked was in regard to whether or not the students should be allowed to use school equipment, which is paid for by the state, to lead these prayers.

All students should have the right to pray, and lead their peers in prayer, but the basic fundamental question of how far your rights extend is based on whether or not you are infringing on the rights of others. Praying over a loudspeaker is an infringement on the rights of someone who does not have beliefs in line with the prayer, or even someone who would just rather not listen to it.

Granted, no one is forcing other people to pray with them, but when prayer over the loudspeaker is permissible, it is impossible not to hear. It is one thing to choose not to join in to a spoken, student-led prayer, and quite another to try to ignore a prayer over a stadium speaker.

The school's allowance of one religious group shows their support of that group only. Even if they allowed other religious groups to pray, as well, it is impossible to cater to all religions because some do not believe in prayer at all. The most logical thing to do would just be not to let anyone pray using the equipment, because they still have the right to pray as they wish, just without violating the rights of anyone who does not agree with it.

Everyone should have the right to pray if they choose, just as everyone should have the right not to. No one group should have the right to use state equipment to publicize their prayers. Public school is not a place for religion, and it is certainly not the place to show favoritism towards just one.

Gil Haynie

Inadequate emphasis placed on essays

Gil Haynie is a senior and is the business manager for *the Spartana* and *Mirador*

Working late the other evening, I realized that I had survived though the entire college application process, with the exception of the essay. After one or two rough drafts, I decided to look at the statistics regarding the personal essay. I specifically wanted to look at the percentage counted toward acceptance. I found, much to my amazement, that only around ten percent of the overall acceptance process is based on the essay in most Ivy League and Big Ten schools. This information infuriated me to the point of throwing my application on the floor like a raving psychotic. I felt cheated.

The essay should carry more importance at most schools. For example, when you look at an application, you see all the facts. You can see what grades the student received and what awards they were given. All this was recorded and sent in as the basic transcript. What you do not see, however, is the human side. The side which likes to play chess and read science fiction, the side that has emotions, the side that feels pain and joy, the side which has culture and opinions. The true, meaningful side of the human being is in culture and identity: the side that has a right to a good education.

To misunderstand me is to say I put little faith in analytical skill, this is far from true. I do believe, however, that our priorities are a little "out of whack". We should make a conscious turnaround from hard working idiots and lazy geniuses to semi-functional human beings with feeling. This is where the true talent lies; these are the fruits of our trees. If we choose to become memorization machines that do nothing but find logical solutions to answers that can be found by any computer, where does the depth come from. Who will be around to ask the fundamental questions? Will the answers ever be found? This is why we have the personal essay, it's a judge of our depth and intellectual ability in regard to culture and identity. If our personality, identity, and culture represent only ten percent of who we are, then it is this writer's opinion that we take an emphatic look into what direction we're heading and for what purpose. I may be called an idealist, but to cherish the ideal is a trait I am savagely passionate about.

Where can you truly explore your inner-self and depth, other than in college? In college, you break free from the simple high school process of "learning to learn" and begin to learn on your own. How can inflated grades decide how bright you will shine in college? The essay lets you think for yourself; it lets you apply what you learned to your life, and move on.

Take a good look at your life, and your depth. Can you stand up to the challenge of thinking on your own? Look at your college application, read the fine print, and decide "Do I want to go to a college that looks only at grades?" The answer and subsequent path is for your steps alone.

Cheers & Jeers

Cheers to... Homestead students for donating cans to the food drives and participating in other holiday charities.

Jeers to... the people who call delays for making us go to school when the roads are still bad.

Cheers to... parent volunteers who donate their time to distributing treats to athletic teams during lunch.

Jeers to... the weather forecasters who predicted up to 16 inches of snow for the week before break.

Cheers to... everyone involved in the Adopt-a-Family fundraiser for helping to make the holidays better for several families.

Jeers to... television stations that announced the same thing for weeks, "breaking election news."

Cheers to... students who are making a valiant effort to improve school spirit.

Jeers to... any teachers that planned homework for over the break.

Cheers to... the senior class for winning the penny wars.

Jeers to... the students who stole the menorah from the student services office.

different voices

What do you think about extending the semester?

"I think in an ultimate sense it was for the better, but personally, I would have liked to have a four day weekend."

Beth Abbott (12)

"I thought it was a good idea. I was able to get more grades in the gradebook which raised my grade."

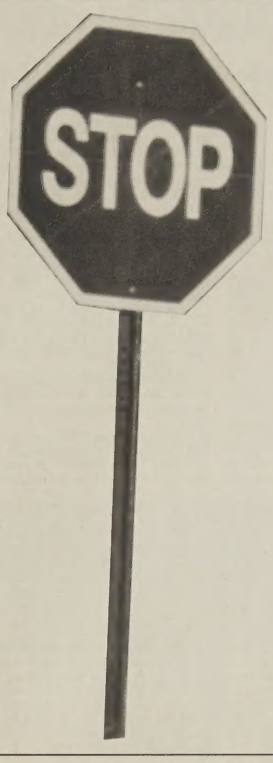
Laura Roberts (12)

"I thought out of the three options, this was the most efficient."

Dan Kensinger (12)

"I thought it was sort of stupid because we could have crammed it in."

Joelle Smith(12)



Teen drivers face difficult driving conditions, including an increase in local police surveillance

ben jones
assistant news editor

With more students earning licenses everyday, more students are being placed at odds with the local traffic police patrolling the area. To most students' knowledge, the number of traffic stops in the area has increased. Although, according to the Traffic Patrol Center, no extra measures have been taken, the number of tickets in the area has increased.

"We do not have any special programs in that area to my knowledge," Captain Greg Roth of the Fort Wayne Police Department said. "Officers pay attention to high traffic areas, but no special tasks or duties have been assigned."

Despite this denial, students have observed an increased number of police patrols in the area. Specifically around West Jefferson Boulevard, Homestead Road, and I-69. Some students were warned about a supposed increase in traffic stops around Homestead by their teachers, even though no known extra tasks have been assigned to officers.

"I've seen more police hanging around Homestead Road and Liberty Mills," said Matt Wymer (11). "In the last two months or so, I've seen at least ten more stops than usual."

With over 600 student drivers along with administration and ordinary travelers, Aboite Center Road, Homestead Road and Liberty Mills Road are all relatively high traffic areas in the morning and afternoon. High school drivers, as a group, are also classified as the most dangerous of the driving groups when classified by age.

"Teen drivers used to be labeled as the most dangerous driving group, particularly in the last six months," said Safeway Driving Instructor Donna Toms. "The new law that restricts passengers for new drivers for the first 90 days may have changed this, but I'm not sure, I haven't seen any statistics."

This might explain the reason for the increase in police traffic around the Homestead Road area, with such a large number of teen drivers, Homestead Road would be an ideal area to monitor for traffic violations.

Statistics have shown that 16 year old drivers are 42 percent more likely to get into a car accident than a 17 year old with one extra year of driving experience. Younger drivers make the mistakes of letting peer pressure or other outside forces influence their driving.

"Younger drivers have a tendency to show off," said Toms. "They let their friends coerce them into doing something reckless that could result in an accident."

The purpose of Driver's Education is to prevent these types of accidents, and to prevent young drivers from letting themselves be coerced into dangerous situations. Younger drivers can learn to pay particular attention to road conditions and to drivers around them.

"They should slow down, and drive according to conditions, check things out, don't go speeding into an unfamiliar area," said Toms. "They should keep their eyes open, watch the pavement, other drivers, and keep an eye out for pedestrians."

With the noticeable increase in police traffic around the area, staying alert to road conditions and driving at an appropriate speed could be the difference between a quick trip and an empty wallet.

What's been your worst driving experience?

I was heading into Times Corner, and had to turn into the fast lane in order to make the turn into the shops. I never realized that cops drive mini-vans, and as soon as I had sped up and pulled over, the lights came on and I was pulled over for doing 65 [mph] in a 45 [mph] zone.
Chris Beaman (12)

Driving home from our first show choir win I had the radio on pretty loud and I was flashing my brights because there was no one on the road and I was in a pretty good mood. A police officer pulled me over, and warned me, but he couldn't charge me with anything because I had not broken any laws.
Clara Cohen (11)

Alternative high school offers new opportunities for students

Impact program enters sixth year in SACS district

steve appel
co-editor in chief

Impact High School is currently celebrating its sixth year as the district's alternative school. The goal of the high school is to provide a substitute education to students.

"[The role of Impact is] to help students graduate, and to provide an alternative to Homestead or another high school," classroom aid Susan Welch said. "[The goal is] to help them graduate for whatever reasons they're having problems over there (Homestead)."

Contrary to what popular belief, the students attending Impact are neither there because they are being disciplined by the school or lack the intelligence necessary to do normal school work. The students are unable to attend Impact if they are expelled from Homestead.

"It's not for troublemakers, it's not for kids that have trouble with school," counselor and liaison to Impact Sally Tinkel said. "It's truly for the average kid that finds regular high school not for them."

Because many times there are more applicants than openings for Impact, counselors look at the necessity of attending Impact for each student. Often times seniors have priority over other students, and freshmen are rarely accepted into the program.

"We look at such factors as is this kid on target to graduate," Tinkel said. "Like if a senior is having a crisis or a meltdown and needs something there, then that senior's probably going to get the chance before a sophomore. Then we just try to keep the sophomore working the best they can and not drop out of school."

The students at the school are separated into two groups. One group attends the school from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and another group attends from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Teaching is mostly done through independent studies. The majority of the classes offered relate to similar topics covered in the Homestead curriculum. Business math courses are offered in place of regular math classes, however. Yet, many of the students have already taken math courses at Homestead before entering Impact.

> "The way we do it is they take two academic classes at one time and they finish it in nine weeks; that's the expectation. Then, the next nine weeks they will enroll in two different academic courses. They'll get four academic credits a semester."
> **counselor Sally Tinkel**

"The way we do it is they take two academic classes at one time and they finish it in nine weeks; that's the expectation," Tinkel said. "Then, the next nine weeks they will enroll in two different academic courses. They'll get four academic credits a semester. The other half of their day they can decide what they want to do, but they have to do something. One [option is to] go to Anthis Career Center and get three credits."

One prerequisite of participating in the program is that the students must be involved in another activity. This is done for two reasons: The activities can include a work study program, attending Anthis, taking college classes, or, as a last resort, completing community service.

The program was originally co-created by Southwest Allen County and Northwest Allen County Community Schools. It has since divided into two different schools for each district. Currently, 25 students attend the program.

When finished, the students will receive normal Homestead diplomas along with the rest of the graduating class.

"They get a Homestead diploma," Green said. "They walk down the aisle with the senior class there just like they graduated from Homestead."

The program was renamed two years ago in order to improve the general connotation and ideas about the school. The name Impact was chosen over others in a contest. The students were asked to come up with a new name for the program.

The school believes Impact is an important addition to the traditional form of education, because it allows students who otherwise would not graduate, do so.

"A lot of the kids are dealing with some emotional issues or anxiety, but it doesn't matter how you got there, it's what you're going to do about it in life," Tinkel said. "I think it plays a big role in making those kids be able to finish and graduate, because we have a good percentage of them that will go onto higher education."

2001 dance marathon will be held in February to raise funds

viktoria hutorskaya
writer

For those who are dedicated, the 2001 annual Homestead Dance Marathon is an excellent way to raise money for the school. Those who participate will spend 24 hours on their feet. The event will take place in the auxiliary gym from Feb. 23 to 24.

The marathon is held for the purpose of raising money for athletic boosters. It has proven to be a successful and entertaining way of raising money for the group in the past.

"Dance marathon is an amazing way of raising money," coordinator Cindy Martin said. "Instead of selling candies, coupons or washing cars, students have both lots of fun and considerable sums funded. Last year $25,000 was raised."

Couples willing to participate can sign up any time during the week of Jan. 8. However, the number of couples cannot exceed 45.

"After January 12, signed couples have to attend a mandatory meeting where they will get a pack of information about dance marathon and their further responsibilities," Martin said.

Couples need to turn in at least $300 before Feb. 23. Prizes will be given to the couples who raise the most money, an incentive that coordinators hope will urge students to try and raise more funds.

"To raise $300 for a dance couple is not really hard," said Martin. "Most of them go to their relatives, neighbors and ask them to fund money. Couples compete with each other as the first place winner gets $400, second place [earns] $300, and $200 for third."

Dance Marathon starts at 8 p.m. on Friday evening and ends at 8 p.m. on Saturday. Dancers will have a 15 minute break every hour and a 3 hour nap in the middle of the night.

"Dancing students will bring sleeping bags with them and have a three hour nap at midnight," Martin said. "However, dancing will be continued after the rest."

Students who are not participating in the marathon can pay a $5 fee to dance with couples during the night. Students can also give this fee to fund any of the couples. During the three hour break, they can go watch the three on three basketball tournament. The tournament is the second way of raising money for the athletic program.

"Basketball game will run parallel to dance marathon," coordinator Cathy Johnson said. "At midnight the final game between students' and coaches' teams starts."

Dance Marathon has been an annual event for the last 19 years, and is an excellent way for people who like to dance to raise money for the school. If dancing is not appealing, students could take part in the three on three basketball tournament taking place at the marathon.

"Basketball games were created as an alternative choice for students who don't want to be a dance participant but who still want to raise money for athletic needs," Martin said.

A limited number of teams will compete starting at 8 p.m., with four teams playing at the same time.

"This year, we will have around 10 to 12 teams, which will play against each other for first place among student teams," Johnson said. "Around midnight the championship between the students' winning team and the coaches' one will take place."

The criteria required to enter the basketball tournament is similar to the requirements that are necessary for Dance Marathon. Each basketball team is required to turn in $200 before the start of the game.

"Team that will raise the most money will receive $200," Johnson said. "However, game winner will get trophies and T-Shirts."

Persons of any gender can participate in the three on three basketball tournament. Three members per roster are required, but four are acceptable in case of a no show. The basketball games are not held within the typical format but are timed in one single event. Games can be won in two different ways.

"The teams may play until one of them reaches 15-point margin and leads the opponent by two points," Johnson said. "But, if none of teams are able to do that in 25-minute limit, then the recent leader in score will be considered a winner."

The previous success of Dance Marathon promises another exciting night that will raise money for athletics. Coordinators of the event activities hope to raise even more money than last year.

At a glance

What: 2001 Dance Marathon and 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. Only 45 couples will be accepted for the dancing. Boy/Girl couples will be admitted first. Followed by same-sex couples if room available. Students must form their own basketball teams of three to four players to play in the tournament. Teams can consist of either gender.
When: Feb. 23 at 8:00 p.m. through Feb. 24 at 8:00 p.m.
Where: Homestead auxiliary gymnasium
Cost: $300 per dancing couple and $200 per basketball team. Students who wish to dance, but don't want to participate in the marathon can pay a $5 fee.
Registration: Jan. 8 - Jan. 12 during lunch mods

News Briefs

MATH TEACHER T.J. McCOMBS WAS AWARDED ITT's Excellence in Educations Award 2000. The award is given by ITT Industries and Allen County Local Education Fund, two groups who honor teachers that have developed and implemented effective ways to teach Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Technology. McCombs, a 20-year teaching veteran, created a set of activities entitled Origami Cubes: A Tool for the Investigation of Surface Area, Volume, Ratios and Patterns. McCombs received a $750.00 professional development grant for her achievement.

AS A PART OF THIS YEAR'S Junior Achievement annual Bowl-a-Thon, 160 SACS employees and PTC members raised more than $8,500. The 32 teams were supporting the non-profit organization that provides in-school economics education to more than 87,000 students throughout northern Indiana, each year. Locally, Junior Achievement programs were taught in 225 SACS classrooms last year. The programs are taught by volunteers from the business community.

Calendar

January 19, 21, 22–Winter Play
January 27–Caberet Night
January 29–Auditions for Variety Show
February 7–Variety Show
February 19–School in session
April 2-6–Spring Break

SPORTS

Wrestling team prepares for postseason

Team will face opposition at NHC on Saturday at New Haven

josh gentry
sports editor

Under a rearranged coaching staff, with the addition of former Homestead wrestlers, the wrestling team seems to be off to a strong start. Head coach Don Weaver is assisted by Brian Lapp (class of 2000) and Justin Smith (class of 1999) this year. Lapp was a state qualifier last year. Unfortunately, he had a shoulder injury which hindered his ability to compete. Smith was a sectional champion in his weight class during high school.

"I think it's a great idea," Alan Richardson (11) said. "They went through the program all four years, they know what it's all about. They can help out a great deal."

The first match of the season was held at home with Dekalb. The Spartans defeated the Barons with a final score of 42-27. Some notable wins for the Spartans came from Chris Ghaffarian (11), Tim Houx (10), and Mike Johnson (12).

"It was a good way to get the season started off," Richardson said.

On Dec. 5, the Spartans suffered a loss against by Norwell. Michael Shock (9) pinned his opponent in the first period of his match, scoring the only points for the Spartans. The final score was 69-6.

"Norwell is a good team," Weaver said. "They have a lot of experience. I want my kids to do well. I didn't think they wrestled to their capabilities."

Last Saturday the Spartans traveled to Columbia City to participate in a triple duel with Columbia City, Carroll, and New Haven. After the several hours of competition were over, the Spartans had fallen to each team. Cameron Yordy (10) won two matches and Johnson won all of his matches.

"It went fine," Ryan Torres (9) said. "We did OK, but not as well as we had hoped to."

On January 4 the Spartans hosted the Bellmont Braves. The Braves, ranked third in the state, overwhelmed the Spartans by winning all matches but the heavyweight match. The final score was 75 to 6. The Spartans had a rescheduled meet with East Noble due to weather related cancellations. The Spartans defeated the Knights 45-19.

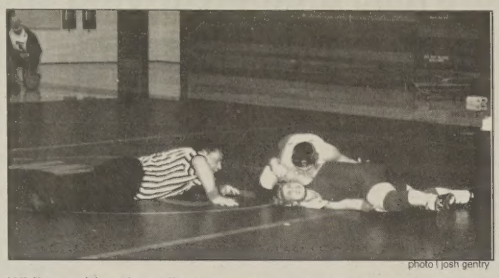


photo | josh gentry

While awaiting the call from the referee, Chris Kumfer (10) collects back points and attempts to pin his opponent at Wayne in the 165 pound weight class. The Spartans defeated the Generals at Wayne on Dec. 12.

"We're moving," Dustin Kamdar (10) said. "We're gradually progressing. We are trying to find our groove. We're trying to get worked back into the season."

The team is approaching the end of their regular season. If the team does not advance through the post season, individuals can still advance. Early Sat. January 6 the team traveled to New Haven for an invitational and faced wrestlers from several teams. The team placed 7 with a final team score of 80.

"We're a young team," head coach Don Weaver said. "They're working hard to improve. I'm interested in making sure they wrestle better every day."

The NHC meet will take place this Sat. at New Haven at 9 am.

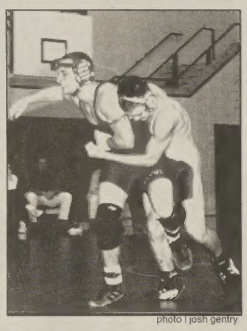


photo | josh gentry

Dustin Kamdar (10) fights for wrist control before pulling his opponent to the mat to prevent him from escaping.

Soccer players defy the cold

Indoor fields provide opportunities for soccer enthusiasts during cold months

jon salisbury
co-editor in chief

With the winter months bringing frigid weather, many athletes are caught in the cold when it comes to staying in shape. However, soccer players don't have this problem. Thanks to the construction of The Plex, soccer players have state of the art facilities to improve their skills.

Homestead's boys soccer coach Bobby Poursanidis and his partner Tom Lapsley founded the Plex because other facilities were not offering enough to soccer players.

"My partner and I have planned this for a long time," Poursanidis said. "The other facility wasn't offering the true soccer atmosphere and I felt that this community deserved to be spoiled."

The Plex is a place for both serious and novice players. Staying fit is especially important for senior soccer players, who plan to play soccer in college. College coaches expect their players, and potential players, to play at the highest level and as often as possible. The Plex accommodates for this. There are numerous age groups and levels that players can participate in. They range from a Mens "A" division to the Wee Bear leagues that are for younger beginning players.

"We offer leagues for all ages, girls and boys, mens and women," Poursanidis said. "We start league play at age 6, and we call it the Wee Bear League. We offer from 6 all the way up to an over 30 league, and also a new league that just started last year called women for fun. It is strictly for soccer moms."

Compared to outdoor soccer, indoor soccer is played in a much more confined space. The fields are smaller, which usually provides for more scoring in indoor soccer games. Some players like the limited space indoor soccer provides.

"The field size makes the speed of play much faster than in outdoor soccer," Nick Csicsko (11) said. "The play is always continuous because the field is surrounded by walls."

There have been a few indoor facilities in the area before, but due to the soccer specific turf, indoor soccer at the Plex is top notch. The Plex has two fields, each 185 feet long by 75 feet wide.

"I've played at a couple other places, but none of them really compare to the Plex," Csicsko said. "Places such as Tahcum-wah lack the quality of the Plex when it comes to the field."

While competitors may have offered soccer, they did not provide that family atmosphere that people had hoped for. The Plex

"Our competitor offers soccer, but I feel it is respectable recreational facility, not a true soccer facility," Poursanidis said. "The Plex is a clean and bright facility, and it offers a concession area and a soccer shop to meet everyone's retail needs."

Over the past several years the popularity has increased not only in the area, but across the country. The Plex offers three sessions for players to participate in.

"Our first session this year had an enrollment of 250 teams," Poursanidis said. "The second session is maxed out at 265 teams."

Indoor soccer is a necessary training tool for serious players. It improves speed of play, touch, and decision making.

"Although many believe indoor soccer is not the true game, it is a great training tool," Poursanidis said. "It is fast and exciting, and it has incredible transition and many opportunities to score."

Girls swimming finishes up season with invitationals after conference

The team's strong depth and size will be major factors in upcoming competitions against tough schools

heather ray
intern writer

The girls swim team moves on in their season with an undefeated record. Confidence is high and the Spartans are tough to beat.

"The only boundaries we have to worry about this season is weather and health," coach Jeff Marble said.

The team has been forced to battle the snow this season. After school activities have been canceled due to poor weather conditions. The frequent cancellations from school activities does not help the swimmers in their quest to stay in tip-top shape.

Besides weather, competition is a matter that worries members of the team. Some swimmers are concerned about the upcoming match against Snider.

"Our toughest competition is probably going to be Snider," Renee Davis (11) said. "We didn't really have anybody that tough in the regular season."

The meet against Snider was canceled twice because of the snow.

"We have a good group of freshmen," Marble said. "We have a couple that are really strong."

Swimmers on the team agree that this year's freshmen turned out to be better than they expected.

"We're more confident about what we have," Emily Titcomb (11) said.

The team has been working on figuring out which events each person will be swimming for sectionals and conference. They hope to organize the team for the strongest and best results.

"We're racing ourselves," Valerie Morando (11) said. "We're making sure our times are good for conference and sectionals. Basically our two big meets are conference and sectionals."

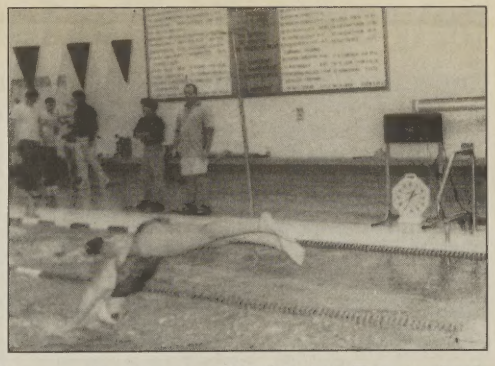
The team is hoping to win conference and are confident going into sectionals. There is some tension in finally taking on Snider.

"We have a lot of depth on our team," Morando said. "Other teams have good swimmers, but we have depth that helps us rack up points. No one is bad, everyone's important and contributes something to the team."

Team spirit and strong captains that keeps the team going at the meets. The team has secret sisters and team dinners which helps team camaraderie.

"Jeff, our coach, helps us out a lot also," Davis said.

Conference is this weekend and sectionals are Feb 3. Any student support for this impressive team would be appreciated by the team.



Plunging into the water, a member of a relay team for the Spartans starts her leg of the race. The Spartans won the conference championship on Jan. 13 at home.

Boys basketball falls on disappointing stretch

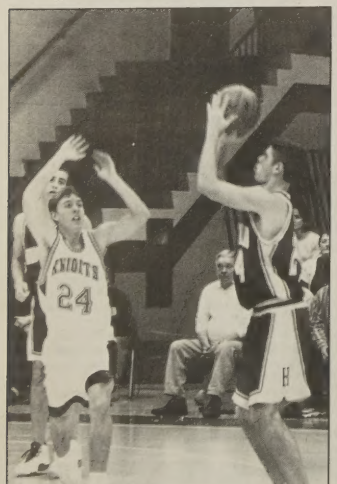


photo | jen hiatt

SQUARING UP FOR A SHOT, Homestead guard Nick Ankenbruck (12) prepares to release a shot in the Jan. 6 game against conference foe East Noble. Ankenbruck led the Spartans with 17 points, but the game still ended in a loss.

meredith edwards
writer

The boys basketball team has been so far successful throughout the season with a 6-4 record. The last few of the Spartans games haven't been as up to par as the games earlier in the season.

The Spartans' first conference game proved disappointing when they lost to Carroll. The game was played on Dec. 15 at home. Homestead stayed ahead throughout the game until the last period when Carroll scored 32 points against Homestead's 16. The final score was 74-65. Of these points 19 were scored by Nick Ankenbruck (12) while Kyle Cleaver (12) provided 18 points and Justin Furniss (12) scored 14 points.

"It seemed like Carroll was on a roll, they made many of the key shots that we just didn't get," head coach Chris Johnson said. "I figured we would be fine if the team could just get ten points ahead. We were steady at eight but just couldn't get over that hump, in the end Carroll caught up and passed us."

> I figured we would be fine if the team could just get ten points ahead. We were steady at eight but just couldn't get over that hump, in the end Carroll caught up and passed us.
> **Coach Chis Johnson**

On Dec. 22, Homestead faced one more loss, this one against the defending state champion, Marion. The Spartans lost 55-46.

At the East Noble tournament Homestead faced Lake Central and Leo and successfully defeated both. Throughout the entire game Homestead maintained a lead over Lake Central. By half time, the score was 27-20 and at the end of the game Homestead had racked up 70 total points over the Indian's 52. Homestead's second game that day was against Leo. Although Leo was up five points at halftime, the Spartans bounced back and ended the game with a score of 65-54.

"I think mainly it is our continuing practice after school that has helped our game," Kyle Cleaver (12) said. "Also the fact that we have a very experienced team."

Homestead played their second conference game on Jan. 6 against East Noble. The Spartans had a disappointing game, losing 54-50. The scores for the teams were tied at half time. In the third period Homestead and East Noble's scores separated and the Knight's pulled out in front, though only with a four point lead. In the fourth period the Spartans and the Knights both ended with another 19 points added to their scores. This kept East Noble's lead stable at four points ahead of Homestead. Ankenbruck, Rhinehart and Erich Martin made the majority of the points. Ankenbruck had 17, Rhinehart had 14, and Erich Martin had 10 points.

The Spartans have followed up their disappointing performances with two impressive victories. Against conference foe Columbia City the team was victorious by a score or 79 to 70. The following night produced another win against Huntington North. by a score of 61-57.

In the spotlight Jon Ranochak

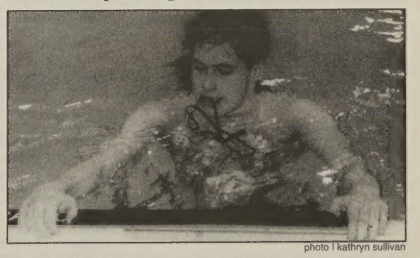


photo | kathryn sullivan

With several high placings in recent meets, Jon Ranochak (9) has proven he is one of the top swimmers in the area. Last year at a state age group competition in Indianapolis, Ranochak finished seventh in the nation in the 200 (individual medley).

Spartana: How long have you been swimming?

Ranochak: "Since I was eight years old. My dad started me out at Orchard Ridge Country Club."

Spartana: Do you play any other sports?

Ranochak: "I play travel soccer."

Spartana: Did anyone give you the inspiration to swim?

Ranochak: "Not when I first started. I didn't really know anything about the sport. But as I got into it, I got more inspired by professional athletes, like Tom Dolan, to do better."

Spartana: What races do you swim?

Ranochak: "For sectionals, I'll probably swim the 200 IM and the 100 fly."

Spartana: Do you swim in your spare time?

Ranochak: "During the off-season I will occasionally."

Spartana: Do you do anything in particular to get ready for a race?

Ranochak: "I usually do an hour to an hour and a half of visualization where I watch my race in my head before I do it."

Spartana: Do you have any personal goals this year?

Ranochak: "I want to get our school and state record in the 200 IM."

Spartana: Where do you think the team is headed this year?

Ranochak: "If everything goes well, like we've planned, hopefully we'll win sectionals. But, there is a pretty tough Concordia team."

Ranochak will be swimming in the boys Penn invitational tomorrow at noon.

SPORTS

Girls basketball team battling through conference season play

melanie kuehnert
writer

The girls basketball season is continuing at a steady pace. The team is continuing to thrive towards victory.

The team had a tough start to their season this year. But, they are motivated to improve throughout the rest of the season.

"I think we got off to a rough start because we are a young team," Jennifer Kopecky (9) said. "But, we have a few games under our belt, and we now know what we have to do to get the job done."

The coaches believe that the team is held back by their confidence in shooting. The team has improved in their shooting technique due to the morning and night practices.

"I have made it a point of emphasis, that if you are open, you will step up and take the shot," head coach Teri Rosinski said. "We have people who can score, but we have struggled with getting the ball to them, and then knocking down the shots. Part of the problem is [a] lack of confidence."

The varsity team had their first win against North Side on Nov. 28 with a winning score of 66-51. Leading scorers were Courtney Magley (10) with 17 points and Teri Gepfert (11) with 14 points.

"Regarding the North Side game, I think we executed fairly well on offense and the girls played with confidence," said Rosinski.

The next game for the team was Dec. 2 against Norwell. The final score was 39-38, resulting in a one point loss for Homestead. Gepfert had 13 points, and Kopecky scored 8 points.

"We played as a team and we were very aggressive on the boards," Kopecky said.

The game against Snider, on Dec. 5, resulted in a loss for Homestead with a score of 63-36. The leading scorer, Gepfert, had 12 points. Then, the team played against New Haven on Dec. 8, and finished with a major win for Homestead with a score of 49-28. Scorers included Meredith Marcuccilli (11) with 12 points, and Gepfert with 11 points.

Many factors have affected the teams record this year. With the teams continuing improvement, they should have no problem improving their record.

"Some major factors in our losses have been poor containment of the ball and allowing ball penetration," said Rosinski. "The teams we have faced have also been basically better and stronger than us at this stage of our development, contributing to our losses."

Last Sat., Jan. 13, the girls defeated Columbia City in an important conference game. Hallie Wilson pitched in 19 points to lead the Spartans to a five point victory. The team will play this Fri. at home against the Bellmont Braves. Hopefully, the girls will play with the same vigor as last weekend.

photo | jen hiatt

FROM OUTSIDE THE THREE POINT ARC, Teri Gepfert (11) drives past her East Noble defender. Gepfert has consistently been among the girls basketball team's leading scorers. The team is looking to do well during their conference schedule after suffering from a slow start.

photo | greg eid

OFF A FACEOFF, Adam Dunn (12) attempts to send the puck to one of his teammates. The team is in its final stages of the season.

He shoots! He scores!

photo | greg eid

Phil Penny (11), and the opposition try to get to the loose puck. The Spartans partook in several tournaments over winter break.

Hockey team working to improve play through hard work

tracy kosmala
writer

The hockey season is well under way with their opening game October 10, 2000; and the players are working hard to make it a memorable season.

"Matt Cameron (12) and John Ryan (10) have been some key players in our games throughout the season so far," Adam Hans (11) said.

The boys have games on Tuesdays; and hope to improve their record by the end of the season with more hustling and by skating all three periods during a game. Also, they've been working on some new strategies and techniques that they hope will improve their record.

"We're doing better than last year, but we could be better. There's always room for improvement," Hans said.

Teamwork and effort are two factors that help a team become more successful. The hockey team has done well so far; but they hope to strengthen the team as a whole.

"Our teamwork, skating hard all three periods, strategies, and speed are some things we could improve on for the rest of the season," Nick Knoblauch (9) said.

The team has been working hard to improve their skills and speed. Luckily, injuries have not been a problem to date. Staying healthy will be a key for the team.

"We haven't had any serious injuries yet this season, just the usual," Hans said.

Most of the team's injuries consist of minor bumps and bruises. Although, stitches have been needed once or twice. In addition to these, there have also been a few knee complications, too.

For the rest of the season, the team will continue to work to improve their skills. Playing hard every period will be a key for the team.

Gymnastics looks for another strong year

Team looks to make third straight visit to state meet

david studinski
writer

Flipping into a new season, the girls gymnastics team is off to a great start with a new head coach.

The team's first meet was held on Jan. 3 at home against Huntington North. The final score for Homestead was 104 out of a possible 120.

Ericka McEvoy was hired as the new head coach for the team this year. McEvoy is not a stranger to the team; in fact, she served as an assistant to Shellen Goltz (12), a member of the team, when Goltz was a freshman.

"I have known three of the girls since their freshman year," McEvoy, "At that time, I promised that no matter what happened, I'd be with them until the end."

Paula Meszaros (12) was one of those three girls. However, she moved away her sophomore year. She has returned back to Homestead's team this year.

"I'm really looking forward to going to state again," Meszaros said.

The team consists of 12 girls and is a mix of members from each grade level. Meszaros, Goltz, and Allison Zipse (9) are the three all-around competitors.

Five girls compete on the varsity team. Also, the same number of girls compete for the reserve squad.

There is no conference for gymnastics teams, because not every school has a team. This allows for less competition and always makes making state a promising goal.

In order to make it to state, the girls must rank first, second, or third at the sectional competition. This must be followed by a first or second place finish at the regional competition.

Improving skills is one of the goals the two seniors hope to accomplish themselves and as a team.

"Personally, I try to be there as a supporter, providing motivation," Meszaros said. "I try to fulfill a typical leadership role."

There have been several changes to the team this year. With a new head coach, and new gymnasts on the squad, the team hopes for a strong competitive season.

"There are new coaches, which means there's a transition period," Goltz said. "But, at any rate, we are going great, we have a good team score, and good freshmen."

Sat., Jan. 20, Concordia hosts an invitational with tough competition. The gymnastics team has an exciting year ahead of them. They have started strong and hope to continue at this pace.

photo | barbara platt

CLUTCHING THE BAR, Shellen Goltz (12) works her routine on the uneven bars. She won the all around state title last year.

Postseason in sight for boys swim team

meredith edwards
writer

Just as the Northeastern Hoosier Conference competitions are starting for the boys swimming team, the Spartans are on a winning streak.

On Dec. 16 the Spartans traveled to Wawasee for an invitational. Homestead defeated all of the teams competing, which included East Noble, Manchester, Wawasee, Rochester, Angola and South Bend. Homestead won with a score 40 points higher than the second place team.

Many of the highest placing swimmers belonged to Homestead. Ross Hoppus (12) won the 100-yard freestyle, and Scott Sprinkel (12) placed second. Jonathan Ranochak (9) won the 100-yard butterfly, and Joe Colley (9) placed second. In the individual medley Ranochak placed first. In the 500-yard freestyle, Mastin Jones (12) placed second. Homestead placed first and fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay. In the 400-yard freestyle relay, Homestead also placed first and fourth. The Spartans placed second and third in the 200-yard individual medley relay.

In preparation for NHC and sectionals, the team had increased practices over winter break and will continue to do so throughout the rest of the season. During winter break the team swam twice every day. Now that break is over the team works Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and in the morning from 5:30 to 6:45. They also practice in the afternoons on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. All the practicing has so far proved successful. Sectionals for the boys are on Feb. 15 and 17, both at South Side.

"So far we have had a successful start," Scott Sprinkel (12) said. "I hope we continue our success through the rest of the season, NHC and sectionals like last year."

On Jan. 8, Homestead achieved victory over Carroll in a home meet. Carroll received 93 points and Homestead received 113 points. Sprinkel received first place in the 200-yard freestyle. In the individual medley, Ranochak placed first. Hoppus placed first place in the 100-yard breaststroke. In the 100-yard butterfly, Colley received first place. In all three relays; the 200-yard freestyle, 400-yard freestyle, and 200-yard individual medley, Homestead placed first.

"I thought that my breaststroke time improved (at the meet)," Andrew Miller (11) said. "I think our continuous practicing is definitely working. We are really cracking down now that the season is waning."

As of press time the Jan. 13 NHC meet was too late for coverage. Meanwhile the team hopes to continue their success through the post season.

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- Bill Cosby will be performing two shows on Feb. 7 at the Embassy Theater. Ticket cost varies from $35-$45.
- *The Actor's Nightmare* and *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All For You* two one act comedies will be premiering at the Presbyterian Theater. Shows start on Feb. 22 and continue through Mar. 10.

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Happy New Year

"Since it's my senior year, I will definitely remember the fun, the stress, the freedom and the final days of my childhood."
Angie Hooten (12)

"I think the quality of life in the 21st century will improve because of the advancement in technology."
Maria Gallucci (9)

"I'm only opposed to resolutions if they are unrealistic."
Ashley Jones (9)

"I celebrated my new year with my family and friends because they will be with me throughout the 'new year.'"
Laura Bender (10)

"In ten years, I see myself helping animals in my own hospital."
Stacy Youn (9)

"If you want to change something in your life then do it. Don't wait until January."
Meredith Marcuccilli (11)

Is 2000 or 2001 the real millenium?

"2000 because it started the millennium" **Heather Hennen (12)**

"I don't care about the millennium since tomorrow will be tomorrow whether it's 1718 or 2001." **Tim Soler (9)**

"2001, There isn't a year 0 in Roman numbers. When time was recorded the first year ended it and became 2 A.D. If you count up 2000 years that means the millennium is 2001." **Derek Moore (11)**

"To me resolutions are dumb because you are who you are and it is hard to change."
Sara Collins (11)

"I hope to have successful cross country and track seasons."
Tracy Butler (11)

photo | Courtesy of cross country coach

"I think people will believe their quality of life will improve with the more technology and materialistic things they have surrounding their life. But, I think everyone's people skills will deteriorate from spending so much time in front of the computer."
Erin Dobias (11)

"I don't usually look ahead; I try to live for today."
Paige Cayot (11)

"[Once my resolution was] never to do my homework again. I almost didn't do my homework most of my freshman year. It didn't take much commitment, but it didn't help much."
Shea Rutherford (10)

photo | amy ring

"I will remember the play *To Kill a Mocking Bird*; it was a great performance."
Tabitha Smith (10)

"I was in Italy and I traveled home so I celebrated it (New Year's) there and in Chicago because of the time difference."
Rachel Adelman (9)

ashley dunn
diversions editor

At midnight, on Dec. 31, 2000, the ball dropped in Times Square, and fireworks blasted through the air as millions around the world brought in the new year. Resolutions were made in hopes of a bright future, while cameras flashed to preserve the moment.

On New Year's Eve, most students were looking toward the future with hope, as many of them felt the quality of life will continue to improve. Some students took time to picture themselves and their lives in 10 years time. Many, on the other hand, did not know what paths their lives would follow and decided only to venture their hopes for the coming year. Others felt more comfortable talking about their memories from 2000. However, when questioned about which year marked the beginning of the true millennium, nearly all of those surveyed had an argument one way or the other.

photo | andy borgmann

"I went with the Homestead band to the fiesta bowl. On New Year's Eve; they had a party for all the participating bands."
Matt Romanoto (11)

Where students celebrated their New Years Eve:
60% partied at a friends house
20% caroused while on vacation
13% toasted the New Year at home
7% of students went some place else

Who students brought in the New Year with:
36% romped with a large group at a party or formal function
23% made merry with a small group of friends
30% commemorated the night with their family
2% had a private soiree with their significant other

"I will remember all of our Friday nights out at football, basketball and just hanging out."
Dustin Lewis (10)

"I think they're (resolutions) useless, for most people forget about them like a week after they're made."
Brandon Bruce (9)

"I have given up on my resolution before. I couldn't not eat chocolate, so I'm trying this year."
Jessica Gemple (9)

"There isn't one thing in particular I will remember, just everything that happened and how those events have changed me."
Ashley Sadler (12)

"I hope to improve myself to my full potential."
Mike Slossan (9)

Volume 31
Issue 7
February 9, 2001

THE SPARTANA

4310 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Homestead High School

Gymnastics ranked number one in state

Sports, Page 5

Two dinners, two blind dates, four strangers tell all

Diversions, Page 6

School days until Valentine's Day:

3

photos | andy borgman

AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS of campaigning, students finally voted on their Executive Board candidate of choice Fri., Feb. 2, in homeroom. At the left, Courtney Stephenson (11) votes during homeroom. Students spent ten minutes voting in the morning and results were announced during seventh period. In the above photo, Jared Bollenbacher (11) and Teresa Quigley (11) react to this announcement. Bollenbacher was elected Executive Board president. Ann Boyer (11) was running unopposed for the vice-presidential position, as was Amanda Wilson (10) for the corresponding treasurer opening. The last of the four vacancies, corresponding secretary, was filled by Kelsey Jones (10). *The Spartana* will feature an article with the 2001-2002 school year's Executive Board in the March 2 issue.

Similar to the Executive Board candidates, students who want to serve as an officer for their class were required to have 100 students and several teachers sign petitions before the candidate's name was allowed to be placed on the ballot. These petitions have already been turned in. The class elections will be held next week, on Thurs., Feb. 15 and Fri., Feb. 16 during all lunch mods.

Student Government is responsible for a variety of activities. The group takes an active role in planning events.

School improves ISTEP+ scores, but narrowly misses Four Star award

allison rahrig
news editor

The ISTEP+ exam is not only important to the sophomore, junior, and senior students taking it, but the test also affects the school as a whole. For instance, depending on the level of improvement a school reaches, that school is eligible for awards and monetary grants.

"I was very pleased with our overall ISTEP results," principal Dianne Moake said. "When you consider that we're the best high school in the area and placed ninth of 472 high schools in the state, that's a great accomplishment. We would like to be one or two in the state, and our goal is to get there."

The Indiana School Incentive Award Program rewards schools who perform well overall on ISTEP+ scores. In order to qualify for this award, schools must improve in at least two of the following four areas: ISTEP+ battery score, language arts proficiency score, mathematics proficiency score, and attendance rate. Homestead improved this year in all four areas and received $11,885.51.

Indiana takes ISTEP+ improvement a step further by rewarding a select group of schools with an Indiana Four Star School Award. To be named a Four Star School, a school must be in the top 25 percent of all the schools in the state in the same four areas that the Indiana School Incentive Award Program looks for. Additionally, the school must be accredited. Four schools in the Southwest Allen County School district received the award, but due to the school's attendance rate Homestead missed the award by .0063 of a percent.

Moake took a closer look at the information provided to her about attendance rate and discovered that many of the absences that deprived the school of Four Star status were not illnesses, but time taken off for vacations. A total of 999 school days were missed during the 1999-2000 school year due to vacations. Data indicates that students took off 518 days during first semester to take either a vacation of their own or prolong one of the school's breaks.

"I was surprised that vacation time was what cost us the Four Star School Award," Moake said. "I realize that special things come up and students want to take off school days for special occasions, but if people could try not to schedule their vacations when school is in session, it would be extremely helpful."

All high school students in the state of Indiana are required to pass the ISTEP+ exam before graduation. Sophomores and juniors that failed the test this year have numerous opportunities to prepare for next year's test. Students with specific deficiencies in either English or math can enroll in second semester classes that cater to these weaknesses. A year-round tutor is also available to help small groups of 3-5 students.

"We want all kids to have the proficiencies that the state thinks they should have," Moake said. "Because not all students learn the same way and at the same rate, they need to be offered different opportunities to meet those proficiencies."

Homestead gained nearly $12,000 in recognition of ISTEP+ improvement, but did not attain a Four Star School Award due to a low attendance rate.

Construction workers paving way for consumers

steve appel
editor in chief

Those who have been near the intersection of West Jefferson Boulevard and Illinois Road have likely noticed the building construction. Once completed, this construction will be a mall known as Jefferson Pointe.

Jefferson Pointe is a 650,000 square foot, open-air, regional lifestyle shopping center. It sits on a 75-acre site and will feature over 60 retail shops and nine restaurants. A movie theater will also be added, but won't open until Nov.

"Jefferson Pointe will be a premiere retail center that offers consumers a shopping experience that meets their changing needs," R.E.D. Capital Development L.L.C. partner Mike Ebert said. "The open-air design allows customers to move freely through the center to enjoy shopping, dining, and entertainment venues. This feature, combined with the upscale store brands, brings a unique retail experience to the Fort Wayne area."

Originally scheduled to open in the spring, the project has been pushed back until August. The space is currently 84 percent leased.

"We shot for Spring 2001, however, with weather we had to push it off to a summer 2001," Jefferson Pointe leasing director Tamra Umble said.

The shopping center will be anchored by Von Maur, which has been a family owned department store for more than 120 years. Von Maur has stores located throughout six states in the Midwest, including a location at w Square Mall in Indianapolis. The Jefferson Pointe store will be two stories and 140,000 square feet.

"Von Maur's philosophy of creating the ultimate shopping experience for our customers is in good fit with R.E.D.'s approach to retail," Von Maur Company president Richard B. VonMaur III said. "We're thrilled to be working with them to bring this development to Fort Wayne."

photo | blake muntzinger

CONSTRUCTION OF JEFFERSON POINTE is expected to be finished soon. The mall is slated for an August 2001 grand opening.

The builders of the mall hope the shopping center will offer more than just the typical shopping experience. "It's open-air with a park-like courtyard throughout the center," Tamra said. "Then, (there are) entertainment components like a theater. It's obviously going to be the first stadium seating theater that you have there in Fort Wayne. So, we try to draw a lot of entertainment traffic, and we do concerts in the middle of the courtyard. So, it really becomes more of an experience than walking through a mall."

The mall is being built in conjunction by R.E.D. and L&B Realty Advisors. R.E.D. is a commercial retail development company with offices in Kansas City, MO and Scottsdale, AZ. R.E.D. life-style shopping centers, two others in addition to Jefferson Pointe, currently being constructed. The Glenbrook Square area is currently the only major source of shopping in Fort Wayne but this will soon change. In August Jefferson Pointe will provide an alternative means of shopping Not only will it include many of the stores already found in Fort Wayne, but will bring stores not in Fort Wayne to the local area.

AN ARTIST'S RENDERING of the completed Jefferson Pointe mall is shown above. The mall is a Mediterranean-style shopping complex, that also includes a specialty grocery store and an 18-screen theater.

Over 60 stores will make up Jefferson Pointe. 85% of the space has been leased. A sampling of the companies that will take up residence in the new 650,000 sq. ft. mall are listed below:

VON MAUR
OLD NAVY
THE CHILDREN'S PLACE
GAP
BIAGGI'S
BEST BUY
BARNES&NOBLE
buckle

EDITORIALS

The Editorial Review

student government campaign run smoothly...

The race for executive president of the student body is always a big deal not only to those students who are running, but to everyone voting, as well. This year, the campaign was well-publicized enough that most students were able to make an educated decision on who to vote for based on what they knew about the candidates. Juniors Ben Jorgensen, Jared Bollenbacher, and Teresa Quigley ran for the office, and each had their share of supporters campaigning for them around school. However, all of the candidates were respectful and even despite competition, the rivalry remained friendly. The election was run smoothly and students were given same-day results. In a potentially touchy situation, both the voters and the candidates did a great job with making it as good as possible.

Editor Board Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed

basketball fans find other ways to support...

Last month, principal Dianne Moake made a speech during the morning announcements on a basketball game day regarding the behavior of fans at the recent games. She forbade anyone from bringing any newspapers, etc. into the games, from verbalizing any negative things to the other team, from using profanity and from sitting in the front row of the bleachers. Since then, students have managed to show their support of the team in more respectful ways other than the contemptuous ways that Moake mentioned. We congratulate those responsible, respectable diehard fans

Editor Board Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed

drawing | shlomo goltz

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The Spartana is a bimonthly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to educate, enlighten, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Staff members of *The Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the paper. Students will be assisted by the adviser is areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Rebekah Van Drake

New mall a definite plus for southwest

Rebekah is a senior and works as copy editor for *the Spartana.*

The Jefferson Pointe mall will be an important contribution to the area. It will not only help local businesses, but it will also aid consumers. The mall is being constructed at the intersection of West Jefferson Boulevard and Illinois Road. Jefferson Pointe is already 85 percent leased and will include clothing stores, food establishments, and various other shops.

This new mall will provide people in our area and surrounding areas with quality stores. Glenbrook is an excellent mall, but it is perhaps farther than some would like to travel. Plus, it can only be positive for there to be two large malls. This means our area is growing, and a second mall is required to meet the needs of an expanding community.

Jefferson Pointe is sure to bring an increase in traffic to the area. This increase could help small local businesses in the long run. With more people and cars traveling the area, smaller stores will be noticed and could benefit from the new mall. While some may think the mall will take business away from stores already in the area, it will most likely have the opposite affect.

Besides bringing more people to the area, the mall will benefit those who visit it. A stadium seating movie theater will be built by the mall. Since there is not another movie theater of this type in the area, it will provide a new and different form of entertainment. Teenagers and adults alike are always looking for new entertainment and a new movie theater will be appealing to people of all ages. The variety of stores will also be appealing to those people in the area. It will include stores such as Banana Republic, which Glenbrook does not even have. A new selection of stores will be a nice change. Also, the mall is planning courtyards and an attractive outdoor shopping atmosphere. Going to a mall with courtyards and outdoor shopping will be refreshing in comparison to the stuffy atmosphere of most shopping centers such as Glenbrook.

Jefferson Pointe Mall will be a great contribution to the area. It will bring increased traffic to the area, which should help other businesses in the area, and it will bring a change of pace to the area. New stores and entertainment will satisfy all ages and types of people.

Jon Salisbury

Media reports not always fact-based

Jon is a senior and works as coeditor in chief 1 for *the Spartana.*

In today's day and age, few people seem to realize the power and influence the media holds. As frightening as it may sound, the media, whether it be written or verbalized, has the ability to shape and form an individuals thoughts. If someone sees a TV broadcast or reads a newspaper article, he almost always assumes the story to be true without weighing the facts. Just because the ink is on the page, it doesn't make it 100 percent true. The media is also capable of digging almost any piece of information up on any individual it chooses. It only matters how far or how long they want to dig. Americans as a whole must begin to examine and decide what they think to be right and just, rather than strictly believing the media.

As strange as it may seem, it isn't uncommon for the media to be incorrect. Take for example the recent election. The days following Election Day still did not confirm victory for either candidate. I went to bed thinking that George W. Bush had won the election, but awoke to find that they could not decide on a winner yet. I was astonished that the media could make such a mistake.

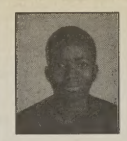
The media can shape and form an individual's opinion about the latest movie, and it can even change one's view on issues such as gun control. The media can form even our opinions of people. Take for instance Linda Tripp. Over the course of a couple months, she went from a little known woman, to one of the most loathed women in America. She soon became a media target; when the media has a target they ruthlessly attack. The attacks were not only about the way she handled the presidential scandal, but she was also attacked for her appearance. I fail to see how a person's looks are going to matter in an issue such as this. The truth is, it doesn't matter at all. It was just another method the media used to shape and form ideas in an individual's mind, especially those who were not at all knowledgeable on the subject.

There is also always the question whether or not to print a controversial story, and all these decisions are based firmly on morals. Today's media has lost a lot of these morals. Another problem with the media is that they often only present one side of the story. When evidence is given in this fashion, everything seems so obvious, but if people only knew the whole truth on certain issues.

Especially in today's knowledge driven world, where information is a click of the mouse away, the media holds more power than many people realize. Our most basic thoughts and ideas towards almost any issue are molded by what we read and see on television. Facts can be misunderstood; people could be misquoted; yet people will still believe whatever their eyes and ears tell them. Wouldn't it be better if we used our own minds more often?

Olaide Olusanya

Bush inauguration shows party division



Olaide is a freshman and works as a guest writer for *the Spartana.*

The inaugural parade was forced to speed up due to the small band of democratic supporters who lined a small stretch of the parade route to protest what they saw as President George W. Bush Jr.'s theft of the presidency. Secret servicemen were left in the dust by this unscheduled change of pace.

Signs displaying such things as "Hush Cheney" and "Hail the Thief" expressed the opinions of the protestors who echoed similar thoughts about the legitimacy of the Bush win in Florida a month ago.

Although some people were alarmed by the protest and sought to quell them, it is the opinion of this reporter that those protestors are what American society is all about.

The basis of democracy is to allow people to voice their beliefs, and through listening to those beliefs, create a society that is agreeable to most if not all people.

This election was singular in that it did not allow the people of Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties to voice their choice for president through voting. If this practice is continued, who knows how many people will be left out of the election and decision making processes in later years simply because one candidate thinks they will vote against him.

Other than the protestors, the inauguration went smoothly, reminiscent of another parade in 1992 when another Bush, George Sr., vacated the White House and handed the reins of power over to Bill Clinton.

The new president was busy, after the inauguration, buying a new and more secure limo, moving his furniture and family into the White House, and trying to pass his cabinet through the gauntlet of critical democratic senators.

Usually, the opposing party gives the new president a week or two to get used to his executive powers, but it seems that this year, the democrats, still peeved about the loss in Florida, will be watching Bush Jr. like predatory hawks after a crippled field mouse.

Cheers & Jeers

Cheers to... Homestead show choirs for raising money at their annual Cabaret Night

Jeers to... the conveyor belt in the cafeteria for breaking- again.

Cheers to... everyone that participated in the 2001 Winter Scenes. Great show, guys.

Jeers to... the blinding hospital-wall whiteness of the hallways.

Cheers to... all of the acts in the Variety Show for providing such quality entertainment for students and staff.

Jeers to... the lack of variety of activities for high school students on the weekend.

Cheers to... Paige Vernasco for defeating the defending state champion in diving.

Jeers to... the sophomore drivers that are filling up the spaces in the junior parking lot early and making it impossible for juniors to find spot in the morning themselves.

Cheers to... girls swim coach Jeff Marbel for an excellent coaching career, including leading the girls to their victory at sectionals this year.

different voices

Do you think grades should be weighted to reflect the difficulty of the class?

"No, because people choose to take AP classes when they could take regular classes."

Connie Shim (9)

"Yes, I feel it is unfair that since I take more difficult classes my class rank and GPA aren't has high as they could be."

Justin Henderson (10)

"I don't think they should. I voluntarily took AP classes when I could have taken regular classes."

Noah Duncan (11)

"Yes, because they are harder and you have to do more work."

Kristi Rice (12)

photos | eric patterson

Student talent shines through on stage

photo | jen hiatt

RENEGADE PERFORMER Jake Wilhelm (12) opens the Class Royale show with a solo that also features Michael Panyard (10) and Thomas Stoffel (9). Class Royale has worked during and after school in preparation for their weekend performances and competitions. Class Royale has already competed in two individual competitions. The group competed at Churubusco, where they placed second overall. The competition was followed by their NHC competition, where Class Royale would have placed third had they not been disqualified for exceeding the limit of performers on stage. Class Royale is currently preparing for the following competitions:

February 10- DeKalb

February 17- Bishop Luers

February 24- Morrisville

March 3- Pike

March 10- Huntington North

March 24- Homestead

Invitational

Elite and Class Royale perform in annual Cabaret Night

photo | jen hiatt

Susan Shim (10) performs her solo during "I Turn to You" at Cabaret Night last Jan. 27. Shim performed one of many solos during the evening. The Elite choir won the title of Grand Champion during their recent competition at Churubusco.

viktoria hutorskaya
writer

Desserts and special performances highlighted the choir department's annual Cabaret Night, a fund-raiser for Elite and Class Royale Show Choirs. The event was held on Jan. 27 in the school auditorium.

"In four years of being involved in this activity, a very good job was done," Janie Byrnes, mother of Class Royale member, said. "All the money raised essentially helped to pay for costumes, trip (costs), and application fees."

Every visitor automatically contributed to the choirs' funds by paying Cabaret Night's seven dollar admission fee. A number of activities, such as a silent auction and a raffle, were also available for attendees to take part in. Those who attended the concert were able to enjoy a dessert, accompanied by Ethan Mathias's (10) piano playing prior to the start of the show. Mathias is a former Class Royale member, who moved to Indianapolis following the 1999-2000 school year. He was invited to return for this particular occasion by friends remaining in the show choir. Later in the evening, in between choir performances, he performed an original solo entitled "Forget About Loneliness."

"Desserts for the Cabaret Night were bought from the Auburn restaurant Bread and Basket," Byrnes said. "They have been selling them to us with a very good discount for four years."

Following the dessert, the audience proceeded to the auditorium for the performance portion of the night.

The audience was entertained by the hosts of the evening, counselor Tom Quigley and Woodside teacher Archie James and their creativity in conducting the auction. It was especially impressive because both hosts were unaware that they would be administering the auction until an hour before it began.

"Originally, another volunteer was going to do the auction," Byrnes said. "Nevertheless, at a quarter to six we found out that he would not be able to. We asked Mr. James and Mr. Quigley and they were glad to help us."

The auction was a significant contribution to the choirs' funds. One reason for this success was the variety of donated items offered up for bidding. Everything from a Science Central membership to a YMCA membership were up for bidding.

"We had lots of items for the auction donated by the community, different families, and establishments," Byrnes said. "Dinner and various gift certificates, as well as family memberships to Science Central and the YMCA, were presented at the auction."

The Woodside Middle School show choir, Class Act, opened the evening by presenting their "True Colors" program, which contained a variety of songs and styles. This was followed by performances by Homestead's Class Royale and Elite Show choirs alternated with the auctioning of donated items. The evening of entertainment concluded with the results of the silent auction, raffle tickets, and door prize winners.

The Class Royale and Elite Show Choirs have typically held several fund-raising events throughout the school year to support their program. However, their ultimate goal is to decrease the number of fund-raisers to just a few major ones.

"Even though choirs are raising money from musical boosters, this is our major fund raiser," Byrnes said. "We are trying to avoid continuous fund raising activities and frequently asking the community for help."

Cabaret Night fulfilled its purpose by raising money in various ways, starting with the auctions and concluding by selling the rest of desserts.

Bush receives positive feedback following first three weeks in office

tim monnig
intern writer

As of Jan. 20, 2001 another man has taken his place in the oval office. At his inauguration, George W. Bush was sworn in as the forty-third President of the United States. The question on many citizens' minds is: what is in store for the country?

After three weeks in office, approval ratings for the new president are optimistic, even though he hasn't had adequate time to utilize his power. According to a Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll, forty-six percent of those polled have a favorable opinion of the job Bush is doing thus far, fourteen percent disapprove, and forty percent are currently undecided.

Unfortunately, a few week's time does not reflect much. The real reflection at this point is the new president's agenda. The incoming president carries with him a long list of reforms ranging from taxes to gun control to welfare and education.

Education, at the top of Bush's list, holds the most reforms. His plan spans ten years and will cost forty-seven billion dollars. Through this plan, Bush aims to promote character education, ensure school safety, as well as set high standards - all with minimal federal involvement.

Throughout the presidential campaign, Bush was insistent on his plan to cut taxes. This particular improvement still seems to hold the same importance as it did on the campaign trail. He hopes to implement a tax cut that amounts to $1.3 trillion.

On the issue of abortion, Bush is against abortion rights except in cases involving rape, incest, or risk to the mother. During his term, he wishes to seek a ban on "partial birth" abortion.

Gun control is also a heated issue. In response to this heated topic, he hopes to more adequately enforce existing gun laws. To add to existing laws, he plans to raise the age for handgun possession to twenty-one. Bush would also require instant background checks at gun shows. Child-safety locks will also be sold with guns.

His plan for welfare is reliant more upon U.S. citizens than their tax dollars. He proposes eight billion dollars in tax cuts to provide charities, churches, and communities with funds to continue good work with a greater determination to help those in need.

Candidates often rely on the finances of special interest groups throughout their campaigns. Donations to a candidate's campaign from corporations or unions are referred to as soft money. Soft money sways representation of the people by influencing a "bought" congressman's votes on given issues. To combat this problem, the president plans to meet with former political rival, John McCain, who has led the charge for this type of reform on Capital Hill. Bush seeks the implementation of what is known as "pay-check protection," which prevents donations by a union to a political party from coming from union members' dues.

It seems that President Bush has much on his agenda. These issues, along with many other important topics, requires much finesse to be handled properly. This has been the challenge to past presidents. The nation must wait to see how well President Bush will accomplish this in the weeks, and years, to come.

Variety show spotlights student expression

joanna rogers
intern writer

The Variety Show has been an annual event since the first show in 1983. This years performance took place on Feb. 7 in the auditorium.

Many students flocked to the auditorium as the annual Variety Show took place Feb. 7, showcasing many talented young performers.

> The main steps of the variety show began as performers were selected during auditions on Jan. 29. The judges were not looking for any particular style to be in the Variety Show. The main quality that was sought after was talent.

The main steps of the variety show began as performers were selected during auditions on Jan. 29. The judges were choir director Rosalie Byrne, assistant drama director Beth Rademeker, English teacher Jan Venderly, and English teacher Elizabeth Graves. The judges were not looking for any particular style to be in the Variety Show. The main quality that was sought after was talent.

"The reason we call it 'variety' is because we take anything...anything unusual and unique," drama teacher Ed Koczergo said.

For most students, auditions were a stressful time. With 27 groups auditioning and only 18 available performance spots, many students worried about making it into the show.

"I was very nervous," Jared Bollenbacher (11) said. "You're like that person is so good and so are they! I totally didn't think I would make it."

For those who did not find much enjoyment in music, the show also includes several dance performances by individual groups and a karate presentation by Noah Duncan (10).

"I begin the skit with an introduction and kept it funny," said Duncan. "I was a little nervous. I wasn't sure how well it would go over."

A main concern for Duncan was he felt his performance was a little violent for school.

Other performances included musical performance by Erick Mackey and his group.

This year's Variety Show was filled with a wide assortment of acts. It is difficult telling if the performers or the audience enjoy the show more.

News Briefs

KEY CLUB BAKE SALE will be held on Feb. 11 following preparations the night before at the Cedars 2 home. The Bake Sale will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The proceeds from the bake sale will go towards reimbursement for the Adopt-A-Family project, and all other profits will be given to Camp Riley. The bake sale will also include a cake walk.

THE ELIOT ROSEWATER INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL BOOK AWARD NOMINEES have been announced for 2000-2001. Students are eligible to vote for the state winner in April but only if they read five of the 20 listed books and fill out an evaluation form for each. For additional information, see one of the media specialists in the Instructional Media Center.

Calendar

February 11— Key Club bake sale

February 19— School in session

March 7— Spring Scenes

March 23, 24— Half days

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SPORTS

Girls basketball prepares for postseason action despite injuries

emily figel
associate editor

The girls basketball season began with only one expectation from head coach Teri Rosinski. That goal is a long-term process that requires constant hard work and effort. It was Rosinski's hope that her team would reach their potential.

"I want our team to play with passion and strive to be all we could be," Rosinski said. "I want the girls to have a strong will to compete, and I expect the girls to be hungry and strive to improve everyday."

Regular season competition is now over for the Spartans, and the unpredictable postseason awaits them on Tuesday. The girls have a tough sectional that includes talented teams such as Kokomo, Marion, and Huntington North. However, the Spartans are entering with a positive mind set.

"We are hoping that we play well," Ashley Gonterman (11) said. "The competition is tough, but if we play our best we could sneak by."

In preparation for postseason play, the team had its fair share of highs and lows. The Spartans defeated a handful of strong teams, which was a big accomplishment for the team. The girls beat a tough Columbia City team in the middle of their season. Columbia City has a lot of size that the Spartans had to offset. The team is consistently a conference rival for the Spartans who won by five points.

However, the team has had a number of hurdles to climb in pursuit of their goals. All season, the team has been cursed with injuries. They have dealt with fairly minor bumps and bruises, to serious sprains and season ending knee injuries. The team is also young and inexperienced. However, Rosinski feels that the team has a lot of positive qualities that can lead to success.

"We have more speed and athletic ability than most of the teams we face," Rosinski said. "We will be facing a lot of individual and team talent in our sectional. If we can mirror that skill level, we can do anything. If we win our sectional, we can win the state championship."

As the girls head into postseason with a positive attitude, one can only imagine what the girls will be able to do next year. The team loses two seniors, but they have strong underclassmen that will be able to step up.

"For next year, the sky is the limit," Rosinski said. "It all depends on them and how hungry they are this summer. If they emulate state championship teams, we can win it all."

But, that is next year. Right now, the girls are looking to make strides in postseason action this year. With speed and pressing offense the girls can be taken seriously as a team to be reckoned with.

DRIVING THROUGH THE LANE, Ashley Gonterman (11) evades her opponent and prepares to shoot. The Spartans inside shooting gives them most of their points.

photo | andy borgmann

photo | andy borgmann

Sectionals lie ahead of boys swimming

Conference championship gives the team confidence

meredith edwards
writer

The boys swim team has reached postseason play once again. Throughout the season they competed against tough area competition.

The team believes their performances are improving as they gain experience.

"We're a young team that's growing," head coach Chad Englehart said. "I think our performance shows how much the team has matured."

The boys have been practicing hard this season, and it shows. At the Northeast Hoosier Conference meet the Homestead boys placed first out of seven teams with 339 points. Norwell was a distant second with 253 points.

"Throughout the year we've had good team unity; but we had difficulties coming together during our close meets," Ryan Albright (12) said.

The boys have gained fitness this season. The team started weight lifting early in the year to build extra strength.

"This season, I wanted the team to be undefeated and win conference, sectionals, and state. I also hope the team is ranked in the top fifteen," Englehart said when commenting on his goals for the team.

So far it looks as if these goals might be achieved. The boys have already won their conference meet, and it looks promising for them at sectionals and state.

"The freshmen class is really strong; which has impressed a lot of people," said Albright.

Even though the team is losing six seniors; they've gained many valuable underclassmen; Joe Colley (9), Sean Miller (9), Jason Walley (9), Jon Ranochak (9), and Zane Carey (9) are all freshmen who are expected to make the sectional team.

For sectionals the team hopes to lower their times. The proper form has already been found.

"We can always work on being faster," Englehart said, "The boys already have the mechanics down."

The swim team also plans to work on finishing their races strong. Also, Albright said having a lot of team spirit and support is always helpful when competing at sectionals or state.

Only one record has fallen this season. It was a diving record broken by Deke Conner (11). Many swimmers are hoping to surpass personal records and set sectional ones at the preliminary competition February 15, held at the South Side natatorium. According to Englehart, "We'll just have to wait and see."

In the spotlight Teri Gepfert

As a protege, Teri Gepfert (11) has been with the girls basketball team since her freshman year. At this point in her career she is a starter who averages 13.7 points per game and has a 74.4 free throw percentage. On Jan. 27 Gepfert scored a career high 30 points against the DeKalb Barons.

Spartana: How did you get involved in basketball?

Gepfert: "When I was little I just shot around in my driveway with my brother and sister and then my dad. In fourth grade I started in that Aboite Girls basketball league."

Spartana: What other activities are you involved in?

Gepfert: "I play golf in the fall and that's about it."

Spartana: When did you start playing varsity with Homestead?

Gepfert: "I played my freshman year a little bit. I dressed for sectionals and then I got my letter. Last year I really started starting and playing a lot more."

Spartana: Do you play for any recreational leagues outside of school?

Gepfert: "Well during the season you're not allowed to. I played on an AAU team."

Spartana: Do you have any big plans for the future?

Gepfert: "I don't know yet still I'm deciding. [I'm] probably going to IU.

Spartana: What do you do in your spare time?

Gepfert: "Nothing really. I'm going to get a job."

Spartana: Where do you want to work?

Gepfert: "I don't know yet. I'm looking. Not many places are hiring."

Spartana: What do you think of the team's progress so far this season?

Gepfert: "We've improved a lot. You might not be able to tell from our record. Our record has improved a little, but overall as a team we've played a lot better. We're scoring more points which really was a problem for us in the beginning of the season. We actually came out with a winning record in our conference."

Gepfert will meet the stiff competition in sectionals next Tues. The location and time of the event is to be announced.

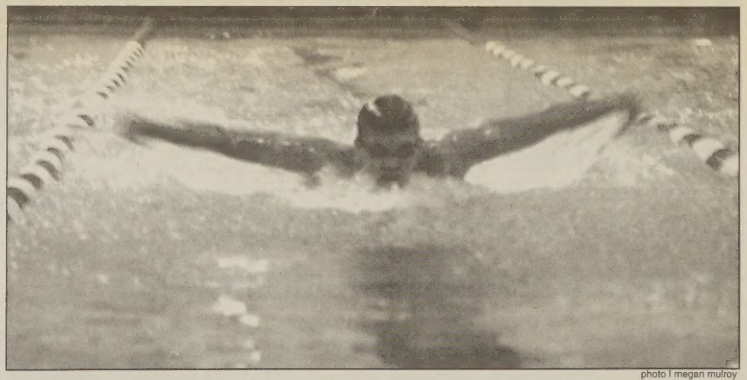

photo | megan mulroy

SURGING TOWARD THE FINISH LINE, Andrew Miller (11) swims the butterfly. The Spartans were crowned conference champions Jan. 11 and 13. Sectionals will be held at South Side's Helen P. Brown Natatorium next week Thursday. The Spartans depth in all events and group of experienced seniors will enable them to do well in this meet.

Boys basketball meets undefeated Barons

Conference games come to a close while sectionals draw near

mike rodenbeck
intern writer

Last Fri. night the boys basketball team played at home against tenth ranked and undefeated Dekalb Barons. The boys were down 35-30 at halftime and later lost the game 73-53. This loss marked their fourth loss in conference play. They had some trouble containing the outside shooting of Dekalb. Also Dekalb got a lot of second chance put backs that gave them about a third of their points. Mr. Johnson said this was a tough loss.

Mr. Johnson is hoping for the seniors on the team to play harder and to lead this team down to the state championship. This feat will take a lot of hard work in practice and they will need to work hard in the rest of their games.

"If we come to play then we'll win," Kyle Cleaver (12) said. "Our practices went well and we need to play as a team to win those two games."

Although the team has a record of 9-6 they have usually ended up on the losing end or their close games. Mr. Johnson thinks it's really unfortunate that the team hasn't been winning especially that the team had real high expectations. With the size that they posses, ranging from six foot six to six foot three in the five starters, the Spartans can do some damage to some defenses. In the upcoming practices before Saturday's game Coach Johnson said they will need a lot of hard work and effort to win this next game. These last games of this season can either really hurt their season record or they can really help it. No matter what the team will need to come out on top for the remainder of there games to boost their confidence level heading into the tournament.

"We have been playing well but having an up and down season," Mike Rhinehart (12) said. "I think we can pull it together by sectionals."

The season has taken a positive turn as of late. In their most recent game the boys team defeated conference foe, New Haven. The game proved to be a fairly easy contest ending in a 60-40 victory for the Spartans. Rhinehart led the team in scoring with 18 points, and Collin Green (12) added 12 points. New Haven was held to only 18 points midway through the game. The team's next game is tonight at conference opponent Norwell.

The sectionals start March 6, with the place and time to be announced. The state championship will be held on March 24 in Indianapolis in Conseco Fieldhouse.

photo | andy borgmann

HUSTLING DOWN THE COURT, Eric Martin (10) takes control of the ball during a fast break. The Spartans went on to defeat the Vikings

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Girls swim team takes sectional championship

meredith edwards
writer

Last weekend, the girls swim and dive team placed first at the South Side sectional held at the Helen P. Brown Natatorium.

Besides Homestead, 11 other schools swam at the meet. Homestead beat Snider, who had a total score of 282. Homestead's final score was 304. Concordia, Northrop, Carroll, Bishop Dwenger, South Side, Canterbury, Bishop Luers, Columbia City, Wayne, and North Side were also competing in Homestead's sectional.

"I was really happy with the way the team performed and that we pulled through to beat Snider," Christy Leonard (9) said.

The Spartans placed high in many of the individual races at sectionals. Karlyn Edwards (11) placed third in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly. Edwards also placed second in the 200-yard individual medley. Sally Krouse (11) placed third in the 500-yard free style. Kristen Johnson (12) placed third in the 100-yard backstroke. Leonard placed second in the 100-yard breaststroke and first in the 100-yard butterfly. The only races which Homestead did not place in were the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle.

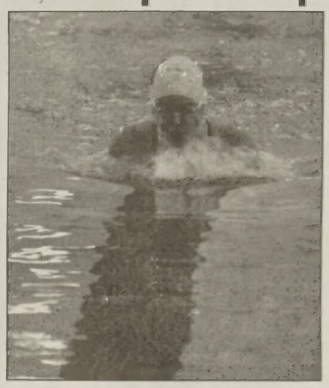
"I swam the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard breaststroke," Leonard said. "I felt I did good, and I lowered my times. It was an overall good meet."

Homestead also placed in all of the relays. The Homestead relay team of Emily Malecki (12), Edwards, Erin Johnson (10), and Leonard placed first in the 200-yard free style. Along with this finish, the Spartans placed second in the 200-yard medley relay and in the 400-yard free relay.

"At sectionals there was actually less pressure to do well from the relay team than I think the individual swimmers feel," said Erin Johnson.

Several of the swimmers will be going to state in Indianapolis this weekend. In order to make it to the state competition, a swimmer must place first or have a lower time than the state cut off. Also, a swimmer may go to state if they have one of the top 32 times in the sectional.

In diving, Paige Vernasco (11) placed first in the diving competition with an overall score of 470.75. Vernasco managed to defeat the defending state champion with her score. Regionals for the divers were on Feb. 6 although it was too late for coverage.



STREAKING THROUGH THE WATER Erin Johnson (10) performs the breaststroke. The Spartans have several swimmers that have qualified for state.

Wrestling finishes second in sectionals

josh gentry
sports editor

With the regular season gone, the Spartans were ready to test their skills amongst the best in NHC. In the 140 pound weight class Ryan Torres (9) finished fourth. Mike Johnson (12) finished second in the conference at the heavyweight position. The placings were not enough to push the Spartans through the ranks as they tied for seventh place with DeKalb. The Northeast Hoosier Conference incorporates many state ranked teams such as Bellmont and Carroll.

Early Jan 27 the Spartans met with Harding, Elmhurst, Bishop Luers, and Wayne at the Wayne sectional. The Spartans placed second behind the defending champions, Bishop Luers. This is the highest finish for the Spartans in sectionals since 1998. The Spartans had a final score of 168, while Luers finished with a score of 250.5. Michael Shock (9) at 103 pounds, Nate Riecke (12) at 145 pounds, and Mike Johnson (12) at heavyweight emerged as champions in their weight classes.

"After [sectionals] I think we'll probably be running a lot this week," Richardson said. "A lot of us weren't in as good of shape as we need to be in."

Eight Spartans will be traveling to Carroll to compete in regionals. Other wrestlers moving on are Chris Ghaffarian (11), Tim Houx (10), Dustin Kamdar (10), Alan Richardson (11), and Ryan Torres (9).

"I thought it (sectionals) went well," head coach Don Weaver said. "A lot of the wrestlers ended up with a win to get third place. So a lot of them ended their season on a positive note."

The Spartans have struggled in sectionals in previous years. Their placing was an improvement and benchmark of accomplishment for the team.

"I thought second place was good for our young team," Weaver said. "I knew we should be able to beat Elmhurst. I figured they would be our next opponent. [Bishop] Luers is strong, they've got a lot of seniors on their team. For us to get second, I thought that was a good show."

The competition between now and state gets even more difficult. The best wrestlers from around the state will emerge throughout this tournament hoping to reach state as the unprepared go home. The tournament is a place where experience and skill shine. Some players and coaches scout their opponents in an attempt learn their strengths and weaknesses.

"If we can come away with at least three [people] going to semi-state, that'd be great," Weaver said. "It will be difficult for them to do. It's a higher level of competition than what we're ready for at this point in some of their wrestling careers."

On Feb. 3 the eight wrestlers who qualified from sectionals met at Carroll for the regional tournament. Schools from four different sectionals were in attendance. Johnson finished second in his weight class, allowing him to advance to semi-state. Johnson lost to a wrestler from Concordia in the championship round. Ghaffarian did not compete in regionals due to a rare skin condition. The seven other Spartan wrestlers had tough matches in the preliminary round, where a single elimination rule is applied.

"The competition was great," Richardson said. "It was definitely the best we've seen all year."

Freestyle wrestling starts in a few weeks and last the whole summer. This is an optional event that wrestlers can participate in to utilize practice time.

Gymnastics team continues success

McEvoy leading Spartans as new head coach

alison larkin
editorials editor

Sometimes, change is good. The girls on the gymnastics team would agree, as their change in head coaches between last year's and this year's seasons seems to have brought them increased success.

"We had a few problems last year with the head coach and we thought that a change would bring more success to the team," Shellen Goltz (12) said.

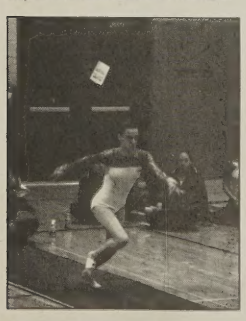
Ericka McEvoy had been the assistant coach to the team for the past three years before being given the position as head coach this year. McEvoy was also a Homestead gymnast herself, as were the two assistant coaches, Kristy Wittenmeyer and Vicki Goltz. Their past experience has helped the team considerably this year.

"She's (McEvoy) been with us a lot longer," Lindsay Venturini (11) said. "She understands us better, and she knows what needs to be done."

The team has done well with the authority change. They won the Concordia Classic earlier in the season and placed a close second behind Charleston, who were the state champions in 2000, at the Charleston Invitational. Their team totals from the duel meets have been consistently high, as well.

"She's done a great job this year, and I wish she could have been our head coach in past years," Venturini said. "I can't say how this year compares to other years as far as our scores go because we're still in the middle of the season, but I know that we're definitely more together as a team."

"The new coaches have provided a better environment for all of us during practices and competitions," Shellen said. "They have allowed us to concentrate more on gymnastics than last year, and they have also made the season more fun."



CONCENTRATION FLOWS ACROSS Shellen Goltz's (12) face as she runs on her approach to the balance beam.

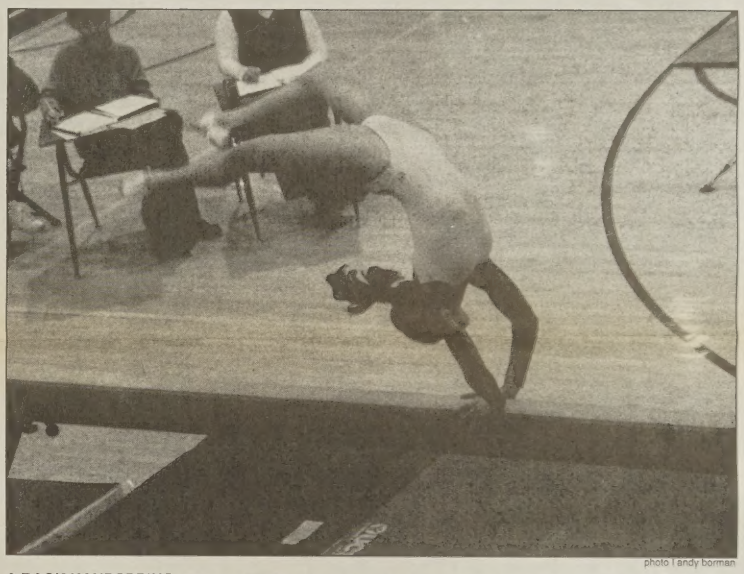


photo | andy borman

A BACK HANDSPRING is performed on the balance beam during a recent meet. Shellen Goltz (12) and Allyson Zipse's (9) recent strong performance have been leading the Spartans ways against their competition.

Team's triumphs lead to number one state rank

meredith edwards
writer

The gymnastics team is currently ranked number one in the state. To back up this ranking, the girls have placed on the top of the charts in nearly all their meets and invitationals.

On Jan. 18, the Spartans dominated East Noble with an overall score of 106. First place in the all-around competition went to Shellen Goltz (12), and second place went to Allyson Zipse (9). Goltz placed first on the balance beam and uneven bars. She also placed second on the vault. Zipse placed second on the balance beam and uneven bars. She also posted a first place finish on the vault.

At the Concordia Invitational, on Jan. 20, Homestead defeated Churubusco, Northrop, Concordia, Angola, Snider and Bishop Dwenger, with a team total of 109. The all-around winner was Goltz. Zipse placed first in the balance beam, and Goltz placed second. Goltz also placed first in both the uneven bars and floor exercise. In the vault competition she placed second.

"It was a great feeling to win the all-around," Goltz said. "I have competed in the Concordia Classic for four years now, and it was nice to win the last one that I would compete in."

On Jan. 22, Northrop visited Homestead. The Spartans had an overall team score of 106 while Northrop achieved a score of 80. Goltz placed first in bars, vault, and all-around. Zipse placed first in the floor exercise, and Paula Meszaros (12) placed first in the balance beam.

The Spartans lost to DeKalb 97 to 101 on Jan. 25. Zipse placed first in the vault, uneven bars, floor exercise, and all-around. Goltz was unable to compete that day because of illness.

At the Chesterton Invitational, Homestead placed second only to Chesterton. Zipse placed first in the vault, second in uneven bars, third in balance beam, and third in all-around. Goltz also placed several times in the meet. She placed fourth in the vault, first in the uneven bars, third in the balance beam, and won the all-around. Meszaros placed third in the uneven bars.

At the home meet on Jan. 29 with Wayne, Homestead was successful with a score of 103. Goltz took first in all of the apparatuses.

The team practices for two hours every day. Only the top four gymnasts from the team compete in the meets and invitationals. Though many would think that the members feel a large amount of pressure from the rest of the team, it's not so.

"There is only a little bit of pressure from other teammates no more than other sports teams," Goltz said.

On Feb. 8, the gymnastics team faced Carroll; although the meet was too late for press coverage. The Spartans will then perform at the Marion Invitational.

Hockey team closing in on first place

greg karidas
writer

"I saw the team play last year and I thought that they had talent but weren't gelling," first year hockey coach Robbie Starkey said. "So it was somewhat of a personal goal."

With a current record that surpasses last year's record by far, 8-7-1, Starkey and his assistant coaches Steve Cameron and Tom Lowe have brought new life to the team. Starkey and his coaching staff have brought along an entirely new coaching style.

"Generally we like to play very aggressively around the puck," Starkey said. "We like to control the puck and play a very aggressive game."

This style of coaching has proven to be successful. The team is currently in third place in the league and only one point away from second place. The team was also just notified that they have been seeded number one in Division 1A. They will compete in the state tournament on Feb. 24 in Indianapolis.

There are 35 teams in the state, but only 7 are in homestead's division. According to Starkey, Carroll is the best team in the division at this point. But, he feels that the other five teams are pretty even. Homestead's talent places them right in the mix with the rest of the teams.

"Our strengths definitely lie in the goal scoring and defensive aspects of the game," Starkey said. "Our weaknesses would have to be that we take bad penalties at dumb times. We also tend to lose focus."

The team has a new look and a new attitude under the new coaching staff that will hopefully guide them through the state tournament and take them right to the top.

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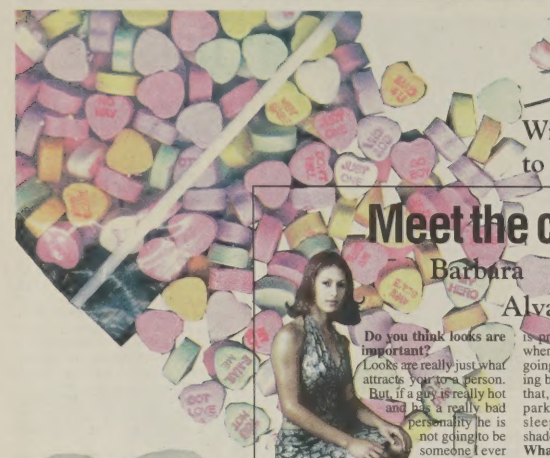
- The Civic Theatre production of the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will be performed Feb. 9 - 25. Tickets cost $17 for adults, $14 for seniors, and $10 for people 23 and younger.
- "The Best Way to a Great Day," an annual fund raiser run by Arts United will continue through June. Area organizations benefit if $1.45 million is raised. Send a check, attend a concert, or find more information at www.artsunited.org.



Be My Valentine

With Feb. 14 just around the corner, *the Spartana* staff decided to help cupid out by setting four people up on blind dates.

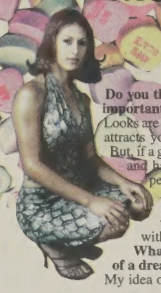
Excited for an evening out with that one special person? Try. . . dinner at Catablu followed by a carriage ride and dessert at DeBrand

Just looking for a quiet night at home? Try a classic romantic flick like. . .
My Best Friend's Wedding
Bed of Roses
Runaway Bride
You've Got Mail
Pretty Woman
Sabrina

photos | andy borgmann, jenn vang, kelley smith

Meet the couple

Barbara Alvarado



Do you think looks are important?
Looks are really just what attracts you to a person. But, if a guy is really hot and has a really bad personality he is not going to be someone I ever want to go out with.
What's your idea of a dream date?
My idea of a dream date is probably going somewhere exciting and fun like going rock climbing or going bungee jumping. After that, we could go to the park and eat lunch and sleep all day under a shaded tree.
What are you expecting from your date?
Just to have fun, and have a long conversation. I hope there are no quiet moments because I hate those and maybe I'll find a guy I like.

Josh Gentry

How do you plan to prepare for the date?
I'll probably wash my car and clean it out. I might end up pacing around my house thinking of what to say.
What do you look for in a girl?
I look for personality, sense of humor, honesty, someone who is caring and someone who I can communicate with easily.
Would you have a problem with there being a kiss at the end of the date?
Yes. Kissing means people are interested in more than just a friendship. I don't think you can determine that on the first date. It takes some time to be able to tell if that person has the same feelings as you do.

8:01 - "Josh came to pick me up at my house. I was really excited. When I opened the door my very first thought was 'Wow this guy isn't so bad looking and he even brought me flowers.' I thought that was really sweet." Barbara

8:19 - "We arrived at Applebee's and I ordered chicken fingers and fries, she ordered blackened codfish." Josh

9:37 - "After Applebee's we went to Ground Level. I think he got a tall mocha, and I got a hot chocolate. We just sat and talked at first, we started to play chess, but I really don't know how to play so before he was going to beat me I just decided not to play anymore. It was a lot of fun going out with Josh. I think if we would of stayed out longer we would still have a lot to talk about." Barbara

Postdate

Barbara:
How do you think it went?
I think the date went really good, I had a lot of fun.
What was he like?
Josh was really nice, and he talked a lot which was good
Was the initial meeting awkward?
It was a little weird because I was going on a date with a guy I'd never met. Plus, when he was at my door step there was a girl behind him taking pictures, and my family was behind me trying to see who I was going to go out with.
If you could, would you see him again?
I think he could be someone I would like to hang out with again.

Josh:
How do you think it went?
I thought it went really well.
What was she like?
She was very interesting. I had a lot of questions to ask considering she had recently moved here.
If you could, would you see her again?
Yes. I had a great time.
What did you guys talk about?
We talked about a lot of things. In our conversation we discovered that coincidentally we both looked about the hallways that day wondering 'Is that him / her?'
Did you bond?
Yes. We managed to keep a good conversation throughout the evening.

Meet the couple

Ashleigh Lambert

Why did you agree to participate in the blind date?
I thought it'd be an interesting experience, and I've always thought it would be fun to go on a blind date.
What do you look for in a guy?
Someone who thinks for themselves. Honesty, intelligence, a sense of humor - those are all pretty important.
How about looks?
I'm not going to lie - it'd be great if I found him attractive. Still, if he respects my individuality, I'll respect his. I just want a guy who does what he wants and doesn't necessarily follow the crowd.
What are you expecting from your date?
Not much. I expect we won't hate each other, but maybe that's even presumptuous.

Ben James

Why did you agree to participate in the blind date?
I thought it would be fun.
How did you get ready for tonight?
I took a shower, got dressed, and called her.
Are you nervous?
No.
What do you look for in a girl?
A great personality. Wants to have fun.
How about looks?
Great eyes, lips, facial structure.
What's your idea of a dream date?
Candle light dinner on the beach followed by an evening of walking along the beach.
What are you expecting from your date?
An evening of fun.

11:26 - "He was really nice and a gentleman. He brought me a pretty rose and opened doors for me. He seemed pretty quite. But, he probably thought the same of me." Ashleigh

11:42 - "We went to Casa's and had an excellent lunch, and he paid (even though he totally didn't need to). Then we went to his house and watched 'Fight Club.' We didn't really talk much, but the movie was good. I got home around 3:30. He seems like a great person, but we didn't have anything to talk about. We'd be better off as casual friends." Ashleigh

Postdate

Ashleigh:
How do you think it went?
It went all right. I don't know what to judge it by, but he was really nice and I think it went OK.
What did you talk about?
Basic stuff - school, music, movies. It was kind of awkward though, because we didn't seem to have much in common.
Did you bond?
Not really. There was nothing "bad" about him, we just didn't seem to click.
Was the initial meeting at all awkward?
Yeah. . . we didn't have much to talk about, so it was hard to expand on conversations.

Ben:
How do you think it went?
It was fun.
What did you guys talk about?
Everything.
What was she like?
Great person.
Was the initial meeting at all awkward?
Nope.
Summarize the evening.
I picked her up at her house, went out to lunch at Casa. Rented a movie and watched it at my house.
Did you bond?
Sure.
If you could, would you see her again?
Why not.

Gift ideas

Flowers are always a nice surprise.

Chocolates are a classic favorite.

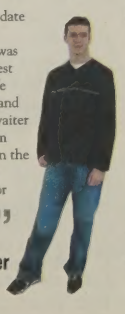
Stuffed animals are a lasting gift.

What was the worst or most humiliating date you've ever been on?

"I went on a date with Megan Lawler. Once we were on our way to dinner my car broke down on the Interstate. We ended up waiting for an hour for help."

Shawn Kinser (11)

"I went on this blind-date with a girl from Concordia, and she was definitely the stupidest girl I've ever met. We were at a restaurant and she called over the waiter repeatedly asking him about his thoughts on the Bible. She ended up making fun of him for defending Darwin's theory of evolution."



Brent Ecenbarger (11)

"When I was a sophomore, I dated a senior. When we went to prom that year, we were going to ride to it in a horse drawn carriage from the restaurant. It was one without a top on it. The one thing that ruined it was his mom wanted to ride in it with us. Of course, I said no."

Erin Zurney (12)

"I went out to eat with this guy at Pizza Hut. His friends ended up being there, too. Well, they had the bright idea to take the candle from the other table and set things on fire. It was really embarrassing. Everyone was looking at us funny. Then they decided to dip their fingers in the wax. When it cooled they started throwing it at each other."

Jenna Madden (9)

"I went on a date in eighth grade, and we went to see a movie. She saw a couple of her friends and decided to go with them. That had to have been the worst date I've ever been on."

Austin Shull (10)

Volume 31
Issue 9
March 30, 2001

THE SPARTANA

4310 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Homestead High School

Dance team wins first state championship

Sports, Page 6

Looking for a spring break activity? Try kite flying

Diversions, Page 8

School days until Summer Vacation:

46

Columbine survivor shares experience with the community

Speakers take the stage at Passion for Peace rally, encouraging students to handle situations nonviolently

allison rahrig
news editor

photo | kathryn sullivan

Heidi Johnson, Columbine survivor and guest speaker

In an effort to increase awareness and decrease violent acts in schools, a Passion for Peace rally was held at the Memorial Coliseum on March 18. Nearly 4,500 high school youth from Fort Wayne, and surrounding areas, attended the free event.

"Originally, we were just going to have a rally at Carroll High School, but then we realized we were thinking too small," Gary Hallam, leader of Youth Ministries at Huntertown United Methodist Church and coordinator of the Passion Peace rally, said. "Once we were able to reserve the Coliseum we incorporated so that we would be able to collect money and people could donate and use that as a tax deduction. It was also to protect us as individuals and make sure we could not be held liable for anything."

The rally was the culminating event of recent Columbine High School graduate, Heidi Johnson. Johnson was in Columbine's library when two students killed 13 other students and later themselves. She now travels the country sharing her message with the nation's youth.

The Passion for Peace rally consisted of many different speakers and bands. The Elms and Darrell Evans, two bands with positive messages, performed. Along with Johnson, Reverend Bill Epperhart and Ternae Jordan also spoke to the crowd. Epperhart is the pastor of The Trinity Christian Center in Littleton, Colorado. Seven years ago, Jordan was the victim of a local drive by shooting.

> I feel like [teens], for some reason, [are] being targeted, and my heart gets wrenched every time these events happen. I want every kid to feel safe going to school.
> **Gary Hallam, leader of Youth Ministries at Huntertown United Methodist Church and coordinator of the Passion Peace rally**

"The rally was great," Hallam said. "I couldn't have expected anything [better]. The choice of speakers was really excellent. The bands had a good message, and the students really seemed to like them."

Hallam wanted a way to blend secular and Christian teenagers who were fighting for the same cause: safety and peace in schools. He worked through Youth for Christ and also approached various contacts within area school systems to bring Johnson's message to Indiana.

"Last September I went to a youth rally in Van Wert," Hallam said. "A friend of Heidi's was speaking and I kept thinking that she had a really great message but was only reaching a small crowd. I thought schools would be interested in it, so I got Heidi's card."

Johnson visited seven area high schools and middle schools during her four-day stay in Fort Wayne. Her presentation included an explanation of what took place at her school, along with approximately 20 minutes of questions and answers with students.

"The topics she discussed really came from the students at the assemblies," Hallam said. "She told them, 'I've been asked every question you can imagine, so ask me anything.' If any of the questions were inappropriate, she wasn't going to answer them, but she answered every single question thrown her way those four days."

Hallam's purpose for the rally and school lectures was to promote nonviolence in the community and schools.

"I have a passion for teens," Hallam said. "I'm Youth Leader at my church and I have teenage kids. I feel like this particular group, for some reason, is being targeted, and my heart gets wrenched every time these events happen. I want every kid to feel safe going to school. I want every kid to not have that evil inside of them, saying, 'I've been picked on and I have to do something about it.' Kids have just gone about it all the wrong way."

Student videos exhibited at local Windsong Film Festival last weekend

The event includes screenings of national, international films

anisha gandhi
writer

Julia Roberts and Russell Crowe weren't the only ones crossing their fingers last Sunday, hoping for film awards. Four groups of Homestead students entered their original films into the Windsong Film Festival this past weekend. The festival, which commenced last year under Michael Floyd at Elmhurst High School, invites elementary school, high school, and any other community members or groups to submit films for screening and competition. The four videos that were submitted by Homestead placed either first or second in their respective categories.

"I was proud of them [Homestead's entries]. I felt they were really strong," film and video teacher Tom Tricker said. "Out of the five that were sent, four were accepted, and those four will all be shown."

While the films were placed in categories according to length, the subjects and themes varied greatly among the movies at the festival. Apart from the local submissions, several internationally and nationally acclaimed films were also shown at the Windsong Festival, including several works from Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival. This created an even more dynamic forum to appreciate other filmmakers' work.

"The festival is a combination of several comedic and dramatic films, as well as documentaries," film and video student Kyle Thomas (12) said.

Thomas attended the festival where his group's movie "Wish" received an Honorable Mention. The inspiration for this film actually stemmed from other movies that Thomas and his group members, Joe Aeschilman (12), Will O'Hargan (11), Lev Wismer (12), and Tim Zumstein (12), considered noteworthy, but with an original plot twist.

"The idea for our movie came from mixing Hollow Man and The Sixth Sense," Thomas said. "I play a student who wishes that people would stop paying attention to him. The next day no one talks to him. The student is invisible but doesn't realize it until much later. At the end of the film, he ends up committing suicide in an attempt to make himself noticed."

Other Homestead entries included "False Gods" by Steve Appel (12), Dan Kilgore (12), Naveen Nattam (12), and Cole Strader (12); "Recoil," by Doug Lamar (12), John Maurer (10), Landin McSorley (12), and Josh Murphy (12); and "Jack in the Box: Behind the Music" by Becky Baney (12), Scott Berger (12), Ryan Messuri (12), C.J. Mills (12), and Dustin Patton (12).

"False Gods" received an Honorable Mention, "Recoil" received second place, and "Jack in the Box" received the first place award. Time in and out of class was spent shooting and editing the films. Students most often find the film making process enjoyable, but it can be difficult, as well.

"The most challenging part is editing the excess [footage] to make it have the most varied types of shots," Thomas said. "The most enjoyable part of making a movie is designing creative shots as you film each scene."

Film and video has become a popular course among Homestead students. The success of the final products reflects on the active student interest in the field of film making.

"[Film making] gives people another opportunity to be creative. You can express an idea or vision through film. It's like photography in that it's practical- people can be shooting videos their whole life," Tricker said. "You can be an artist without knowing painting, sculpture, or drawing."

Key Club focuses on electing board members, preparing for convention

viktoria hutorskaya
writer

Every Thursday, Homestead Key Club members meet with the purpose of discussing recent, and planning upcoming, volunteer projects. Every volunteer can become involved in any project that is available and that is of interest to the individual.

"We are currently doing several projects," Key Club advisor Jennifer Bay said. "For example, drama troop performs at the nursing home. Students are involved in tutoring in the middle school, working in Lutheran Hospital. Several members go to Cedars, which is a women's shelter. They help with several activities and talk to the women."

Recently, weekly meetings have been filled with excitement caused by the elections. The newly elected board members will assume their duties at the end of April.

"We have nine positions in the Key Club," Bay said. "Those are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, public relations, technology, and senior, junior, sophomore representatives. We have already elected a president for next year."

Regardless of the considerable amount of club positions, the electoral process is not very elaborate.

"First, members nominate candidates. After that, candidates' speeches are followed by the voting of Key Club members," Bay said.

The main goal of Key Club is to help the school and community. With this in mind, the club is now trying to perform as much volunteer work as they can, and the annual state convention provides additional motivation for achieving good results.

"This year, convention is going to be in April in Fort Wayne," president Lesley Rasp (11) said. "We are going to stay in a hotel downtown. Each year convention takes place in completely different parts of Indiana. I think they spread it out to get more people involved and be able to participate in the convention. Sometimes, it is impossible because of the transportation problem."

The upcoming convention will be comprised of a series of discussions in which all Indiana Key Clubs will share their experiences and achievements. Aside from the serious part of the convention, there are also going to be exciting aspects as well.

"Besides seminars and nominators there is going to be a lot of fun stuff to do like a dance and talent show," Rasp said. "State board is going to determine the club of the year. All clubs have been sending monthly reports to the state board, and now they are going to judge us according to the data about the active students vs. passive ones, the most improved club of the year. There are also going to be other divisions."

The Homestead Key Club was nominated last year for an excellence in service award. Members are expecting to come back from the convention with yet another award this year, as they have been actively involved in a variety of volunteer activities.

photos | greg eird

THOSE WHO CANNOT FIND A CONNECTION between volunteering and car racing, haven't attended recent Key Club meetings. Elections for the 2001-2002 Executive Board have been held, and positions decided. One stipulation of running for an office, however, was dressing up in a costume or disguise, and then relating the dress to the club. Chris Yarnelle (11), pictured above, chose a racing uniform. UPPER LEFT: Jennifer Bay, Key Club advisor, and vice-president Chris Lubkert (11) discuss the project agenda before a meeting.

EDITORIALS

The Editorial Review

Columbine survivor speaks...

In what seemed to many to be a rather brief, informal speech, Columbine High School graduate Heidi Johnson recounted the tragic 1999 shooting at her school to students earlier this month.

More than 800 students crowded the auditorium to hear Johnson, who graduated last year and is taking time to travel before college, speak about her now infamous high school experience during which two of her fellow students killed fifteen, including themselves.

Johnson should be given the up most respect for sharing what she has experienced with others, but she was unwilling to give little insight into the incident other than what has been published dozens of times in newspapers and magazine articles. She pointed to her faith as the reason that she was spared, focusing on religion more than what the root of the problem is, or what could perhaps be done to prevent future tragedies such as what she has been through.

Editor Board Vote: 3 in favor 1 opposed

College fair provides vital information...

Tuesday March 20, the annual college fair visited Homestead High School's cafeteria. The purpose of this event is to educate students on prospective colleges. Over 80 different colleges were present to offer brochures and packets to students. In addition to this information, door prizes were also given. A raffle for a $200 scholarship was also held, along with the raffle for the door prizes. Students had to be present to receive any prizes. This event was free of charge.

When it comes time to select a college, the more information a student has the better off they are. The college fair supplies students with needed facts when making a college decision.

Editor Board Vote: 3 in favor 1 opposed

Price of parking may raise...

Over the past few weeks, rumors that the price of a parking pass may raise from the few dollars that it is now to upwards of thirty or more dollars. Although no formal announcement of a change in price has been made my a member of administration, the idea of this has many students worried about how much they will have to pay to drive to school next year.

People are pointing to a police officer that will be hired to survey the parking lot as the reason for the possible price raise. Apparently, the administration feels it necessary to push parking lot security. Despite the fact that we already have an adequate way of finding and ticketing parking violations, more may be done to do this same job at the cost of students.

Editor Board Vote: 3 in favor 1 opposed

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The Spartana is a bimonthly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to educate, enlighten, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Staff members of *The Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the paper. Students will be assisted by the adviser is areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Steve Appel

Study hall will stay futile until revised

Steve is a senior and works as co-editor in chief for *the Spartana.*

Study hall consists of three types of students. The first group includes those who spend so much time on activities outside of school that they need more time to study or do homework. The second group comprises of those who have time to do their work outside of school but prefer doing portions of their homework during school. The final group encompasses those who only take study hall as a break from the regular school day.

The goal of study hall ought to be to provide a compromise between all of these groups, so that study hall is the most productive and has the best atmosphere possible. In past semesters, study hall allowed students to work and talk relatively freely. Although this system pleased many of the students, it was too lenient for some. As a result, a few parents complained to the school and changes were brought about.

This semester study hall seems to be more of a prison than a high school class. Students are allowed virtually no freedom. They must remain seated at all times and be in a constant silence. The rule is followed so strongly that students are reprimanded by the study hall monitors for asking questions regarding home work. In other classes, this is not a problem. Students are allowed to help each other and give assistance.

Although the constant chatter is a distraction, the berating of the study hall monitors is even more bothersome. Often times I will be so deeply working on an assignment that I have completely tuned out the murmur of the cafeteria, but then the study hall monitors yell at a group of students, disrupting the set pattern I had grown accustomed to.

The students who are incapable of doing school work when others are talking need to adjust. If the students wish to study in college they will have to adapt to the distractions. It is understandable that a student would not be able to do an assignment which requires deep, profound thought during study hall. In this case, the students need to save that work for a later time, and work on an assignment that is more suitable to the study hall atmosphere.

Study hall is not a play time. Rules need to be enforced if students are too rowdy. It is even understandable that the majority of the class would be a span of relative silence. A viable solution would be to allow a five to ten minute period of free time at the end of each period, so students could talk without the distractions of study hall monitors. This would not interfere with the students studying.

Study hall guidelines needs to be adjusted to allow all students to appreciate the period. These students have decided to forfeit another class during the day in order to study or do other things. An adjustment in the rules would allow all of these students to be happier and more productive.

Alison Larkin

Past events should be taken seriously

Alison is a junior and works as editorials editor for *the Spartana.*

After yet another round of school violence in the past few weeks, I sat in my 5th period class the other day and listened to a girl confidently state that "that would never happen at Homestead." This, I thought, is exactly the mentality that has made other high schools such easy targets.

It seems like old news by now. It's become so familiar, in fact, that we've grown almost immune to the fact that more people have died at school. Yet instead of taking this news as more proof that no one can predict where something like this will happen next, people are just dismissing it as something that only happens to other people.

Teenagers are notorious for thinking themselves to be invincible, but I don't understand how we can continue thinking that we are immune to something that we have witnessed happening to people just like us. I'm sure that the people of the seemingly serene Littleton, Colorado or Paducah, Kentucky didn't think that something like that would happen to them, but it did.

The way I see it, it's purely luck of the draw that we haven't experienced something similar in our halls. We are no more exempt than those that have been forced to endure it. Schools like Columbine are not dissimilar from Homestead; mostly white, upper-middle class suburbia. Perhaps the biggest difference is just in the fact that we may not have someone at our school with the capacity to kill his or her classmates, but if we do, we probably would be no more successful in trying to stop them than others have been.

There are hundreds of theories as to what pushes these kids to do what they do- problems at home, lack of acceptance at school, biological imbalances. According to a lot of these theories, there is nothing that people at school can do to prevent what they may deem as an innately violent nature, but there is no harm in trying. Homestead is a school that can help fuel the stereotypes of shunning certain groups of kids, but it also has the potential to go against the norm.

Seeing how other students have lashed out against those that they feel have wronged them should send us the message that we need to accept everyone, preventing them from feeling that they have no other way to get their classmates' attention. Obviously, there is nothing that anyone can do to stop someone who is born with the mentality of a killer, but until we know for sure that that is or isn't what causes these kids to snap, we should do all that we can to prevent it.

Rebekah Van Drake

Students come down with senioritis

Rebekah is a senior and works as copy editor for *the Spartana.*

As the year comes to an end, seniors begin thinking about summer, college, and high school finally being over. Everyone grows tired of waking up ever morning at six and dragging through the school day. For four years, seniors have had the same routine, and frankly, many of them are just plain tired of school work, peers, and lectures. Many people lose their motivation to work hard on homework. It's hard for everyone to concentrate because the excitement of graduation and starting over is on everyone's mind. It's almost impossible for students to not catch senioritis, it's almost a tradition for each graduating class.

After twelve years of hard work at school, and for the most part following the rules, perhaps seniors deserve a little freedom. Maybe if seniors had a more freedom they would be more inclined to pay attention for the remaining weeks of school. I know a lot of seniors are particularly tired of the same lunches every day. Even though the food at Homestead is excellent, after eating it for 12 years, one tends to grow tired of it. Perhaps seniors should have the option of leaving school for lunch during the day. Obviously, there would have to be truancies given if they did not return. But, after so many years at school, seniors need a break.

With spring drawing near and anticipation for the future growing rapidly, seniors have already been hit with senioritis. To help all seniors cope, they should be given more freedom at school. Obviously, that freedom will come with more responsibility, but I think that seniors could handle it.

Cheers & Jeers

Cheers to... Columbine survivor Heidi Johnson for making the best of a bad situation by sharing her experiences with other high schools.

Jeers to... students that vandalize the drinking fountains, rendering them out of order.

Cheers to... half days for giving us a much needed preview of our upcoming days off for spring break.

Jeers to... the 40 degree weather that we shouldn't be having during the spring.

Cheers to... the janitors for cleaning up after more than 1800 high school students.

Jeers to... the length of time that the administration is taking to deliver a verdict about Powderpuff next year.

Cheers to... everyone that participated in "Just Because" week.

Jeers to... any student that would disrupt a school-sponsored concert with profanity.

Cheers to... the Winter guard for making it to their first ever state competition.

Jeers to... the students who find the need to tear down the repair sign on the bathrooms.

different voices

How could study hall be changed to better serve students?

"You should be able to sit with your friends so they can study together."

Brittany McSorley (9)

"I think we should have sleeping bags and pillows."

Eric Bradley (10)

"Have an area where kids can talk."

Matt Wymer (11)

"We should be able to talk as loud as we want and move around freely."

William Phillips (12)

photos | eric patterson

Winter guard places seventh at first state competition

meredith edwards
writer

After only two years of competition, the winter guard advanced to state and placed seventh out of the twenty teams competing.

Winter guard is the extended season for the color guard. The 18 female members compete in competitions across the state.

On March 10, the guard participated in state preliminaries held at Mooresville High School. The girls placed ninth and were therefore allowed to advance to state. To advance to state, finals teams must place in the top ten at semi state.

"I think we can attribute our success to all the hours of practice by the team," Shirley Fullhart (11) said. "We practiced every Tuesday and Friday, and we have extra practices near competitions."

On March 17, the winter guard traveled to the state competition at Center Grove High School. Eleven teams, from across the state, competed at the finals with the Spartans in class A. The team gave a performance that led them to a seventh place finish.

"I have performed with winter guard for two years," Diane Miller (11) said. "My favorite competition was state, because it was our goal to make it this far, and the whole day was centered around our performance."

The season for winter guard began on Jan. 20, when they went to North Putnam High School and won fifth place. On Feb. 3, at Yorktown High School, the guard picked up third place. When the group traveled to Taylor High School on Feb. 17, they placed fourth. During the course of the season some adjustments within the team were made. After two members of the team dropped Fullhart and Megan Baker (11) joined up.

"This was my first year in winter guard," Fullhart said. "I only performed at (state) preliminaries and the state competition this year."

Last year was the first year of winter guard. The team competed up to the state preliminaries, where they placed 13th, just three places away from achieving the opportunity to compete at the state level.

Following their first showing at the state competition, the team hopes to return next year and continue with their success and improvement.

Homestead Alliance Winter Guard

Jan. 20- North Putnam High School
fifth place trophy
Jan. 27- Bishop Dwenger High School
Feb. 3- Yorktown High School
third place trophy
Fed. 17- Taylor High School
first place trophy
March 3- Lafayette Jefferson High School
fourth place
March 10- State prelims at Center Grove / Mooresville High School
ninth place
March 17- State finals at Center Grove High School
seventh place trophy

"I have performed with winter guard for two years. My favorite competition was state, because it was our goal to make it this far, and the whole day was centered around our performance."
Diane Miller (11)

photo | kathryn sullivan

ON CENTER STAGE theater students Kelsey Jones (10), Laura Doust (10) and Meredith Hunter (9) perform their part of Class Action, a scene they were assigned as part of their grade for their theater one class. Every student in theater arts is required to perform during the Spring Scenes evening, which took place on March 7.

Second semester theater arts class culminates studies with exhibition

ben jones
assistant news editor

The annual Spring Scenes performance, put together by Ed Koczergo's second semester theater arts class, welcomed an audience on March 7.

The Spring Scenes presentation is held annually as part of the second semester theater student's grades. Performing during the night is required, as each student must have something to show what they've learned.

"Everyone who is in theater-two has to be in one of the performances as part of their credit; it's required," theater student Michael Panyard (10) said.

Students are formed into groups and are assigned a scene, which is picked by Koczergo. This scene is then practiced by the group and prepared for presentation. The groups are arbitrarily given different scene assignments and have no option in the scene they will have to preform.

"We use similar ones every year," Ashleigh Lambert (10) said. "I think the scenes we used this year were also the ones used last year."

The evening of performances began at 7 p.m. in the auditorium, and lasted until the final group had performed at 9 p.m. Both theater-one students and theater-two students took part in the event, it began with theater-one scenes followed by the theater-two scenes.

For those students who took part, and had performances, the evening enabled them to get up on stage and to acquire experience in front of an actual audience. The performers were graded on their individual performances. Spring Scenes was worth 25 percent of the student's semester grade.

"In theory, it's the culmination of everything we've been doing in class," Lambert said. "It gives us a chance to practice what we've been doing in class on stage in front of an audience."

Spring Scenes was an opportunity for those students in second semester theater arts to practice the skills they have learned in class and to put them in use in front of a real audience.

photo | laura alford

IN CELEBRATION, the speech team gathers prior to their sectional competition. Sectionals took place at Snider High School on March 10, with six team members advancing to the state competition.

News Briefs

FIVE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program. Nolan Barr (12), Anisha Gandhi (12), Irene Kim (12), Yetunde Olusanya (12), and Jonathan Streit (12) have all been chosen as finalists.

SHOWCASING STUDENT TALENT, Fine Arts Week will occur during the week of April 30-May 5. Students involved in the school's arts and humanities programs will be participating. The Spring Musical, "Grease," is one of the activities planned for this week. Other activities include:

- •Student performances at all lunch modules
- •School convocation featuring instrumental, vocal, and dance performances
- •Art fair and sale from May 1-4
- •Book fair in the Community Room
- •May 4—Coffee house before and after "Grease"

THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in community and school activities. Irene Kim (12) and Tim Merrill (12) have been named candidates in this year's program. 2,600 candidates were selected from 2.8 million students for their exceptional scores on either the College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment. A panel of educators will review Kim and Merrill's essays, self-assessments, description of activities, school recommendations, and transcripts. In April, 500 semifinalists will be chosen. Scholars will be invited to Washington D.C. for several days in June to receive the Presidential Scholars medallion at a recognition ceremony.

"IF YOU BUILD IT, WE WILL PLAY," reads the slogan for the soon-to-be-constructed Three Rivers Junction, a community-built playground for Allen County. The playground will be located in the new township park on Aboite Center Road, east of Summit Middle School. Privately funded, donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to The Park Foundation, and can be sent to Three Rivers Junction, PO Box 40229, Fort Wayne, IN 46804. Volunteers will be building the playground May 15-20. Meals and child care will be provided. For information about volunteering, contact Key Club or log on to www.swacpark.com.

Calendar

April 3-7–Spring Break
April 13–No school
April 30-May 5—Fine Arts Week
May Musical, "Grease"
May 19—Junior-Senior Prom
May 28—Memorial Day - No school

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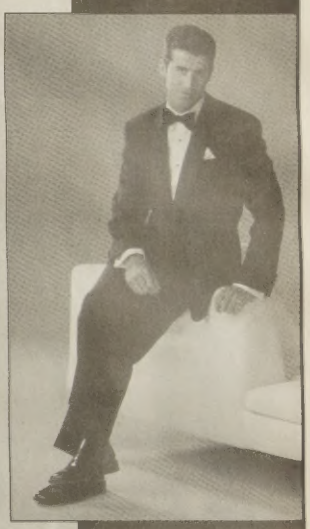

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Annual break
hour; students
before last pus

rachel adelman
intern writer

5...4...3...The countdown of school days left until spring break begins. Thoughts of sunshine, sleep, and no schoolwork are filling many students' heads. While several students are going to warm places for spring break, some are also visiting colder vacation spots. Spring break this year starts March 31. Students will return to school on April 9.

A great amount of Homestead students are going to Florida. Students are going to different places, like Siesta Key, Fort Meyers, Orlando, Clearwater Beach, and many other areas. Rachel Johnson (9) is going to Siesta Key. "I am going with my friend's family, so it should be a lot of fun," said Johnson.

Ben Anderson (11) is going to Clearwater Beach. Anderson said, "I am going to Clearwater for a week, and then to Disney World for two days."

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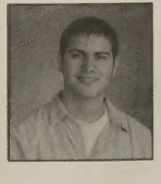
Time for Sp

Rachel Adleman
Freshman

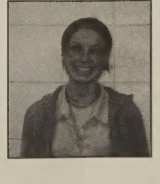
"I am going to Hawaii and I'm bringing a friend with me."

Sam Adams
Freshman



"I'm going to El Salvador on a mission trip."

Lindsey
Bruggeman
Sophomore



"This year we are going to Destin, Florida."

Ben Uelk
Sophomore

"I'm staying home. I'll spend the week trying to find things to do."

Where are you headed for Spring Break?

starts in less than an
have one week to play
h to summer vacation

udents are going on trips in large groups. ents, including Jennifer Oberhausen (9), hl (9), Janelle Brown (9), Kyle Brown (9), (9), Renee Mercier (9), Ray Keller (9), and r (9) are going on a cruise together. Their ps in a few of the Caribbean Islands. n said, "I'm looking forward to going on the se it has an ice skating rink, a rock-climbing pools, and it's the biggest ship ever made

re another popular spring break spot. Many o the Caribbean Islands, the Virgin Islands, untries. Joanna Cornwell (12) is going on a lexico. "I like the ocean, and I'm looking getting away from Fort Wayne," Cornwell

Some other warm spring break vacations are Hawaii, Mexico, and California. Ashley Watts (10) is going to Cancun, Mexico. "I am looking forward to the beach and the warm weather," said Watts.

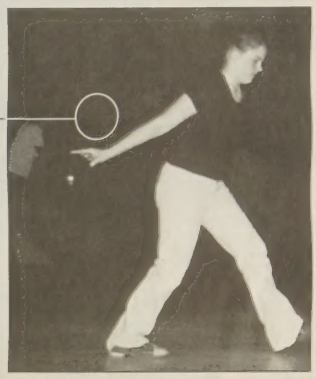
Some students are also going to cold locations, or just staying in Fort Wayne. Sheena Ardeshna (9) is staying in Fort Wayne. "I will probably just sleep and watch TV most of the time," said Ardeshna. Places like Colorado, Utah, and Vermont are popular spots for skiing and snow boarding during spring break.

As spring break nears, students are becoming more and more anxious for the final minutes. Enjoy your spring break and use your time wisely, because it'll be over before you know it. Then, the countdown to summer!

pring!

When Florida is out of the question, there's lots to do in 'Fort Fun'

Most students here think of Spring Break as a last chance to get out of Fort Wayne and see the sun before summer. But what about those unfortunates who can't leave the Fort. What options do they have?



LINDSEY ECKERT (9)

There's always the Coliseum. The taxpayers nightmare growing downtown must be good for something, right? It is. The Coliseum is host to a variety of concerts and conferences. Even Kid Rock and Pantera.

STEFANIE BOKEL (12)

Then again, if you're not into music, you could go to one of the myriad bowling alleys that dot Fort Wayne. The cost of attending such lanes of opportunity ranges from $7-$15.

If you happen to be a little more adventurous, you could try out the paintball field at Paintball USA. To enjoy such vicarious danger, you will have to forgo only $25.

MATT NICHOLSON (12)

For the less athletic of us, there is Putt-putt golf and games. A round of miniature golf and not go-karting or arcade privileges will only cost you $4.50.

In all, Fort Wayne is still the drab little town we know and love. However, here are a few suggestions that we hope will get you through your Spring Break blues.

photos | eric patterson

Dan Kensinger
Senior

"I'm going down on the Saturday after school gets out to Purdue to visit my sister. I'm coming back to catch up on school work. That Friday and Saturday I'm going back to Purdue."

Michelle Hennick
Junior

"I'm going back to Columbus, Ohio to visit my friends because that's where I'm from."

Shawn Kinzer
Junior

"I am going to West Virginia with my Church Youth Group to build houses with Habitat for Humanity for the homeless."

April Moss
Teacher

"I'm going on a cruise to Cozumel and the Grand Caymans and Jamaica."

photos | greg eid

This spread was compiled and edited by Joanna Rogers with help from Tracy Kosmala, Olaide Olusanya and Mike Rodenbeck.

SPORTS

Bowlers conclude season at individual state

josh gentry
sports editor

After finishing a near perfect regular season, the bowling team competed in sectionals. Going into the match, the Spartans were ranked first in their division. Having not suffered a loss since week four of competition, the teams were eager to test their skills. Both the boys and girls teams finished second to Bishop Dwenger.

"We were too big-headed about it," Adam Motes (11) said. "[We] just went out there, thought we had it, and ended up not bowling what we needed to come in first. I think we were just over confident about it."

On March 3, the Spartans competed in regionals. The regional competition accepts the first two teams from each sectional. To qualify for the team state competition, teams must place in the top three. Both the boys and girls teams fell short of this precondition, placing fifth and fourth, respectively. Qualifying for the individual competition at state are Mike Banta (12), Matt Burbrink (9), and Matt Kral (12). Banta placed third overall amongst the 60 competitors who qualified.

"We should have done a lot better," head coach Mark Burbrink said. "We're kind of pleased with how we did. We have three individuals going. We're happy with that."

The state tournament was held in Indianapolis on March 16 and 17. The first evening was a practice round for the bowlers. Saturday's competition was televised live, with Pepsi acting as the official sponsor.

"The state tournament is pretty awesome," Mark Burbrink said. "To be three out of 60 left, they have a lot to be proud of."

The Spartans did well with Matt Burbrink placing 18th, Kral 30th, and Banta 38th. The individual tournament began with more than 900 bowlers. Through vigorous elimination, the bowlers were diminished to the 60 that competed in state.

"I think we could have done better," Kral said. "We stayed up a little too late the night before. We had a good time down there. The excitement before us kept us awake."

The Fort Wayne Bowling Conference banquet was held at Homestead on March 22 at 7 p.m. This occasion was to recognize bowlers with various awards and possibly scholarships.

Basketball ends in disappointment

john joseph
writer

"I'd call it a bittersweet season," Nick Ankenbruck (12) said.

What made the season seem bittersweet to many of the players was the disappointing loss in the first round of the playoffs.

"The loss was the most disappointing time of the season and the most surprising," Erich Martin (10) said.

While the team suffered a devastating loss in the postseason, it's important to look back on the more positive notes of the season.

"I had a pretty good individual performance against South Side this season," said Martin, "That game really raised my confidence and showed me my true potential."

With a 14-7 record on the year and a 10-3 non-conference record, the team's most fulfilling moment, according to Ankenbruck, was winning the Max Platte invitational, also known as the Holiday Classic.

"Anytime a team goes out there and wins that many games in a year, you can call it a successful season," said Ankenbruck.

Every player had a different role to play for the team. The players knew what their job was and how to get it done game after game, according to their strengths or weaknesses when it comes to the game of basketball.

"Mainly this year, my goal was to get the ball to the big men down low and get it to Ankenbruck behind the arc whenever he was open. I think I played my role well, and I'm looking forward to making improvements for next year," Martin said.

The statistics support Martin's claim to success as big man Mike Rhinehart (12) led the team in scoring and 3-point threat Nick Ankenbruck led the team in points from behind the arc.

"Improvement is the most important factor when evaluating a season," said Ankenbruck.

Last year's 14-8 record is nearly identical to the teams 14-7 record this year. However, the players on the team claim that there was obvious improvement from last year, only a disappointing postseason season kept them from improving more on their overall record.

"The talent was there this year, we just didn't come through when it counted," said Ankenbruck. "We put up a good fight and have no excuses for the loss at Kokomo. The team played well and as hard as possible. Lack of effort was not the problem at all."

It's apparent now why Ankenbruck and other members of the team refer to the season as bittersweet. The disappointing loss to Kokomo was a let down, but the victory in the Holiday Classic and the individual goals that were achieved give hope and shine light on seasons to come.

Record breaking event

al hill
writer

After hard work and sheer determination, the gymnastics team had a rewarding season that finished with a triumphant win at state. The 12 member team took home the schools sixth state championship. This accomplishment is a record that no other Indiana high school has yet to match in this field of sport.

Definitely winning state was the biggest highlight this season," Shellen Goltz (12) said.

Goltz had an impressive meet, finishing second on bars and fifth in the all-around. Paula Meszaros (12) had strong performances on the uneven bars, balance beam, which helped add to the team's total success.

"When we got to state I think we all just wanted to have fun and show that we are the best," Meszaros said.

After starting out well on the vault and bars, the girls had a few stumbles on the beam, before regrouping and finding their feet on the floor event. This event was considered the highlight for most of the girls. Allyson Zipse (9) finished first on the floor, fourth on vault and sixth on bars.

"After our mistakes on the beam, we worked together as a team and we came back," Zipse said.

With all the pressure on the team, the state championship evoked many emotions from the girls. These emotions ranged from confidence to nervousness to excitement.

"We where all nervous, but I think we where more excited." Goltz said.

The girls were almost unstoppable throughout the whole season. With wins at DeKalb Invitational, Marion Invitational and Concordia Classic, the team also placed first at State.

Goltz strong performance were clearly rewarded with her placing first in vault, uneven bars and all-around.

The girls placed second at regionals, losing narrowly to Dwenger. Zipse was in charge, placing first in both the floor and all-around section. The gymnastics team worked hard throughout their season and were rewarded with the state championship.

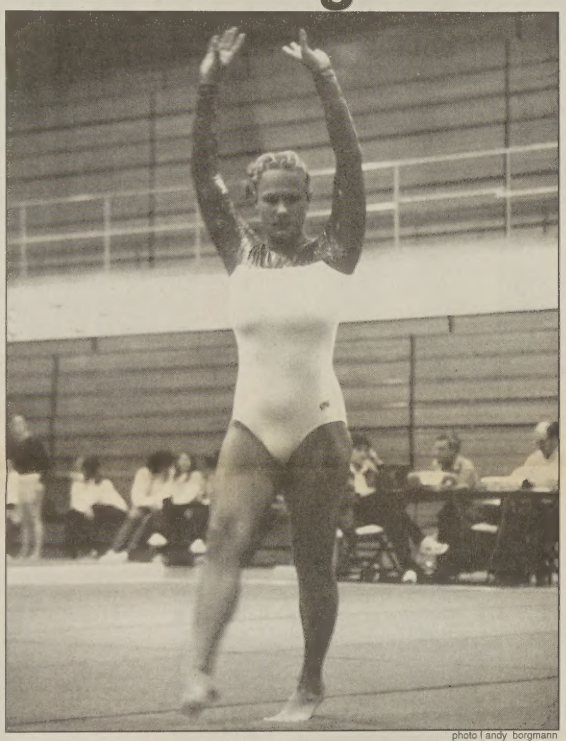


photo | andy borgmann

IN THE MIDST OF HER ROUTINE, Kelly Fisher (12) prepares for her next move.

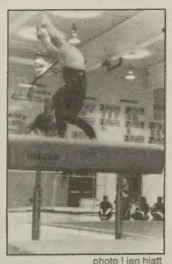


photo | jen hiatt

LEFT: ALLYSON ZIPSE (9) finished first on the floor exercise, fourth on the vault, and sixth on the uneven bars at the state competition.

RIGHT: SHELLEN GOLTZ (12) finished second on the uneven bars, fifth on the floor exercise, and fifth in the all around at the state competition.

photo | jen hiatt

In the Spotlight Reed Nicholson

The Homestead hockey team has improved greatly within the past few years. This advancement can be accredited to the development of players through the seasons. One such player was Reed Nicholson (12). Nicholson joined the Spartans his freshman year and has increased his ability with the experience. Seniors such as Nicholson are seen as role models for the underclassmen. Nicholson shines on and off the ice, as shown by his membership in the National Honors Society.

Spartana: What other sports do you play?

Nicholson: "None competitively anymore. I used to play baseball when I was younger.

Spartana: What are your plans for the future?

Nicholson: "I'm planning on going to Purdue University next year. I'm starting off in Horticulture. I'm not sure about that though. I might switch to general education."

Spartana: Do you play hockey for any recreational teams or leagues?

Nicholson: "Ever since I started Homestead I stopped playing for every other house league. I played on a couple all-star teams. It's too time consuming to play any other [league]."

Spartana: What do you think of this year's progress?

Nicholson: "As far as the season goes, I think we did really good, a lot better than expected. It was disappointing on all the tournaments. We got screwed at state. Then in city we just didn't play good at all. Besides that, our season was really good."

Spartana: What do you think helped make the most improvement?

Nicholson: "We have a lot of new talented players. They helped us out. We have a ton of seniors. Seniors that have been on all four years. The team this year clicked really good."

photo | will vragovic

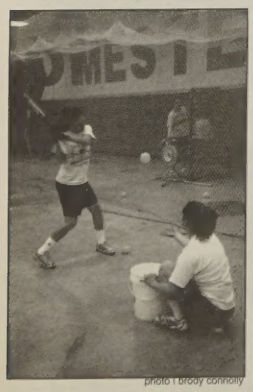


photo | brody connolly

WITH HIPS TURNED and ready to swing, Katie Lambert (10) focuses on the ball. The team's first game will be held on March 27 at Concordia.

Softball begins with expectations

melanie kuehnert
writer

Last season the softball team posted a 22-7 record as they won their first ever conference championship. Many of the team members received all-conference honors and were a part of the NHC all-star team.

"Last season was excellent," head coach Linda Ciesielski said. "We had the best season Homestead has ever had."

The team has four returning starters; two are seniors, Stacey Speshyock and Lauren Kerr. There are also strong underclassmen, who are ready to step up to the challenge.

"The returning team members are much stronger and have a better knowledge of the game," said Ciesielski.

The team has been practicing for almost five weeks now. According to Ciesielski, her expectations for the team this year are to play as a team, not as an individual, to work hard, and to have fun.

"We practice everyday after school and sometimes on Saturdays after the season begins," Stacey Speshyock (12) said.

The team's first game of the season was against Elmhurst. The game was to be played March 21 but was postponed.

"I do believe that the game is early, but I think we'll go into it strong," said Speshyock. "We have a good chance."

Despite a strong effort the game ended in defeat with the team losing 7-6. Although the team wasn't victorious, it should prove to be a learning experience for later on in the season.

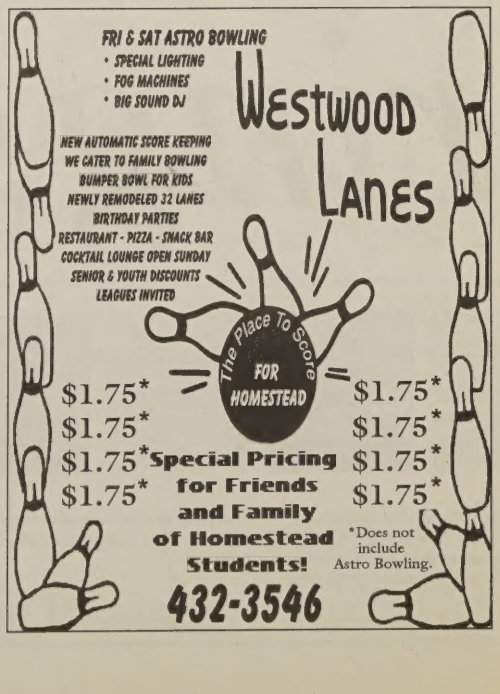
Looking to the upcoming schedule, the team has a game about everyday of the week. The first home game is with South Side on April 9. The team won't face any conference teams until late April.

"I don't think having a game everyday is a disadvantage; the girls love competition, and then they get to be outside a good portion of the week," said Ciesielski.

Being outside, opportunities for scholarships, and the competition may be some of the reasons why softball is such a popular sport for high school girls.

"I love the game and I love the people," said Speshyock.

The team has high standards this year to live up to, but the team is optimistic.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SPORTS

Season approaches for baseball team

mike rodenbeck
writer

Along with the highly anticipated arrival of spring comes the beginning of the baseball season. Although the weather is sometimes deceiving, winter is over and it is time to get outside for spring sports and Homestead baseball.

With five seniors returning to the team from last season two of which include, catcher Matt Singleton and outfielder RJ Sanfrey, there is a positive outlook this season.

Last season the varsity team played well and finished with a record of 20-9. They finished their season at sectionals against Huntington North. With this new incoming class their season should go well. The experience of older players will help the underclassmen gain confidence.

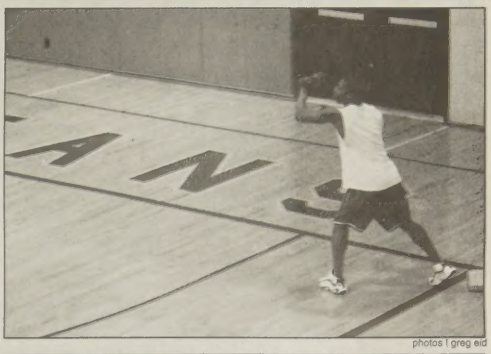
"The incoming class finished a combined 37-1 in their JV and freshmen teams," coach Keith Potter said.

According to Potter, there are strong underclassmen who are ready to step up and replace the graduated seniors from last season.

This will be Potter's ninth season coaching the baseball team, all of which have been at Homestead. His varsity staff is completed with the help of Tim Decker and Paul Kenell. Jamie Fraizer and Joe Asher will help coach the JV team.

The first game of the season will be home on April 3 against Blackford. The final game of the season will be on May 24 against South Side and the game will be away. There will be 28 games played this season, twelve of which are home and fourteen are away. On April 7, 21, and 28 there will be two games that will be played, also on May 12 there will be a double header. Later in the season, on May 19, there will be a tournament away at Warsaw.

The Homestead baseball team had a strong season last year and hopes to have a repeat performance. With seniors and talented underclassmen working together, the team should have another excellent season.



INSIDE THE MAIN GYM, Kevin Mitchell (10) watches the ball into his mitt. The team practices indoors when the weather is poor.

photos | greg eid

Dance team wins state title

mary rozman
writer

"All of us were so excited after hearing we won state," said Rebekah Mensah (11). "We were crying and giving each other hugs. It felt so good to be state champs."

The dance team successfully completed their competitive season with the school's first state title in division two jazz. The Spartans competed against ten teams at Lawrence North High School on February 23rd and 24th.

"The jazz performance was incredible," said coach Jennifer Bay. "They were very energetic and nearly flawless."

As a result of their state title, next year the dance team will move up to division one dance. In addition to this jump, the team is considering adding a new category, poms. This new category would include using cheerleader poms, but it would still be a dance routine with up beat music.

"I think having poms will be fun and different," said Erica Stroom (9). "Usually, in pom dances you have more energy and expression, unlike in a lyrical dance."

The Spartans also competed at state in lyrical performance, placing third behind McCutcheon and Carroll. Lyrical dance is a slower dance and filled with more emotion. This is the dance team's first year competing in the lyrical category.

"I felt pretty good about the lyrical dance," said Stroom. "Before we were on the floor to perform the team was emotional, giving an awesome effect to our routine."

The dance team now looks forward to their Spring Show on May 26. In addition to performances by the entire team, soloists and ensembles will be showcased. Beginning dance will appear as well.

Soloists at state included: seniors Jenn Hall, Kristin Schroeder, Nicole Raymer, Erin Miccoli, and junior Sara Collins. Performing an ensemble were freshmen Erica Stroom and Kristen Suever.

All in all, the state championship was a well deserved reward for the dance team's hard work and dedication. Captain Jenn Hall summed it up by saying, "Winning state for the first time was a really great experience, especially after being on the team four years."

photos | jen hiatt

ARMS RAISED, Kristin Shroeder (12), and the dance team, perform the team's jazz routine at a pep session. The team won state in the jazz category. A pep session was held in honor of the dance team and the other winter sports.

A LINE OF DANCE MEMBERS perform their routine choreographed for the lyrical competition. The group placed third in their lyrical state competition.

photos | jen hiatt

Boys track team has high hopes for young season

brian clark
writer

The boys track team has been practicing for six weeks, in preparation for this year's season. The season will end after the state meet on June 1, the last day of school.

"This year's season will be much better than last year's, and we hope to win conference," head coach Dick Shenfeld said.

The first meet for the boys team was on March 21, versus Elmhurst, but scores for the meet were unavailable at press time.

Two indoor meets have also taken place thus far, one at Huntington High School, and the other at Purdue University.

However, "The meets were just practice," according to senior co-captain Mike Skeeters (12), because they involved no team play. Skeeters runs the 110 meter hurdles event, and holds the school record in the 300 meter hurdles event with a time of 39.8 seconds.

> This year's season will be much better than last year's, and we hope to win conference.
> **coach Dick Shenfeld**

On March 27, the Spartans defeated South Side and Huntington North in a three-way meet. The meet was held at South Side. At the meet, Andy O'Connor (10) won both the 1600m and 3200m races. Logan Edwards (10) won the long jump. Co-captain Josh Murphy (12), who is the school record holder in the pole vault event, won the high jump. Wilson won the 800m. Co-captain Kyle Cleaver (12), who participated at state last year, won the discus. Also, all three relays were victorious.

The team plans to advance to state this year with a win at conference. Last year, the team lost to Carroll High School at conference. The Spartans have not won the NHC since 1994. The team plans to beat Carroll this year, who has won the Northeast Hoosier Conference for the past four years.

"We're going to beat Carroll this year because we have so many great returning guys, and also because Carroll lost The team plans to do well this year due to returning strength. Though the team did not make it to state last year, six Spartans competed in the state meet in individual events, and most have returned this year.

"Returning seniors like Vinny Murphy, Mike Skeeters, and I are all going to help us this year a lot. We also have a lot of awesome sophomores like Logan Edwards and Andy O'Connor that will help us," co-captain Ian Wilson (12) said. Wilson runs the 800 meter and one mile events. Wilson hopes to advance to the state meet in the individual 800 meter event, which he ran a best time of 1:58 minutes last year.

After a disappointing season last year, the team's predictions are hopefully correct. The Spartans placed a disappointing third place at conference last year.

"We could have done much better at conference last year than we did," Skeeters said.

Other strong contributors that will bring points to the team will be distance runner Eric Nestel (10), sprinter Matt Springer (10), and shotputter Pete Skinner (12).

On March 27 the Spartans traveled to South Side for their second meet of the season with Huntington North and South Side. The Spartans defeated both the Vikings and Archers. The final score was

AGAINST HUNTINGTON NORTH at Huntington College, Ian Wilson (12) competes in the one mile race. The meet was the Spartans' first competition of the year and was held indoors on Feb. 28. The Spartans last participated in an outdoor meet at Elmhurst on March 22.

photos | josh gentry

Season underway for girls track team

meredith edwards
writer

The track and field season has just begun for the girls team. The season started with several indoor invitationals and one meet.

On March 1, the team visited Huntington College for an indoor invitational. These first invitationals are not scored but instead used as a basis score or time for teams and individuals.

On March 9 and 16, Purdue also held an invitational. On the ninth, the team competed in trials. Those who place well continue to the March 16 portion. At Purdue, the relay teams all advanced to the second day of the invitational.

The team is spending hours after school practicing for upcoming meets. The team practices everyday after school for approximately two hours. After spring break, practices will also be on Saturdays. Unlike in other sports, experience isn't as necessary in track. However, a blend of ages is better than an unbalanced team.

"I'd say the team looks to be a nice blend of ages, although we like to count on our older members more because of their experience," Tiernon said. "But, with our sport we need about 20 to 30 kids, so that will account for a wide variety of ages."

As usual, individual members, and the team as a whole, are looking toward the Northeastern Hoosier Conference (NHC) meet. Many individuals are also looking toward state.

"I would love for the four by four relay team I'm on to advance to NHC and win like last year," Sara Shomburg (12) said. "That would be my fourth NHC title."

Huntington North, a team Homestead defeated last year, was the first official meet for the Spartans. On March 20, Huntington North traveled to Homestead. The Spartans defeated them 69-64.

"It (the Huntington North meet) was close in terms of points," head coach Anne Tiernon said. "Huntington North seemed to be a bit better than they were at this time last year, but I feel we answered the challenge well, and we know what we have to work on."

After bad weather over the weekend of March 23, the March 26 meet with Northrop was canceled and has yet to be rescheduled. The next meet for the team will be on April 10 against Columbia City. For the Spartans, the season will extend further into the year up until the May 8, when NHC begins.

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Linda McCartney's Sixties - Portrait of an Era, opens March 24 at the Fort Wayne Art Museum. McCartney's portrait photography talent combined with backstage access to many popular musicians during the 1960's allowed for many pop/rock/folk stars to be caught in a relaxed atmosphere. Photographs of the Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Simon and Garfunkel, Janis Joplin, along with many of The Beatles will be featured.

Let's go fly a kite

photos | Courtesy of the Gospoderaks

John Gospoderak, a local hobbyist, shares his experience, enthusiasm, and expertise on the world of kites.

NO PROJECT IS EVER TOO LARGE, at least not according to kite designers who believe the only limit for a kite is people's imagination. Linda Gospoderak stands in front of this 90 by 25 foot kite (above) inorder to put it into perspective.

SUSPENDED IN THE WIND, this ground display (left) catches the eye of many passersby. Windwheels much like this blue and white one are gaining popularity among kite fliers.

The sky is the limit

Kite flying provides transitional hobby from winter to spring

ashley dunn
diversions editor

Most people would probably laugh at the thought of flying a kite and brush off the hobby as a way to entertain small children. These people, however, don't realize how much kite flying has grown in popularity the last few years, due to technology. Some people make a living off of kiting, while others keep it as their hobby.

"Its kind of a tinkerer's hobby," local hobbyist John Gospodarek said. "I would equate it to model airplanes. People who like to make adjustments would like kiting. For instance, each time I go out and the wind is different, I have to change something on my kite."

When kite flying is mentioned, the image of a rosy-cheeked little kid holding one end of a rope attached to a box kite high in the blue sky comes to mind. Those kites require a lot of work to fly, need a lot of wind to stay up, and break after one crash landing. Now, with advances in technology, some kites can even be flown indoors. These kites are able to stay in the air with little to no wind due to the new, light weight fabrics, better designs, and light, but sturdy poles. Another advantage to newer kites is that they are easy to assembly.

"As far as wind is concerned kites have come a long way," Gospodarek said. "My old kites needed at least five m.p.h. of wind and this newer one only needs about two m.p.h. You don't need a lot of wind anymore for kites to fly."

For serious kite flyers, conventions are held all over the world. Denmark, England, France, Germany, and the United States are only a few of the countries that hold annual kite conventions. Activities at these gatherings range from contests, races, and shows to selling kite merchandise.

Due to the cold weather and lack of consistently high wind speeds, the rise in popularity of kites may not be apparent in Fort Wayne. However, with the variety of newly designed kites and availability on the web, many think that this fad will soon be seen locally.

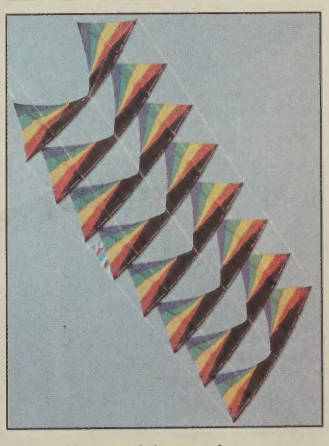
"As of right now there isn't much interest in kiting locally, but in Europe it's big," Gospodarek said. "I think the beaches help, but I also think that Americans don't look at kiting as a macho sport. The sport of kiting will grow as people hear about it."

The Midwest is not typically thought of as an ideal place to fly kites. The American Kite Fliers Association, however, thought differently when they held a Kite Convention in Muncie, Indiana in 1999.

Beginners do not have to travel to a convention or buy an expensive kite to begin. An open field or a park works well.

"When I was in grade school, we would go out to a field that has now been changed into the Wizards stadium and fly a box kite," Gospodarek said. "We had 1000 feet of line, and when the kite was all the way out we could barely see the speck over the [Memorial] Coliseum."

With thousands of varieties of kites, it is easy to spend hundreds of dollars on kites, but it isn't necessary. For a high quality kite, go on-line and search for one that is perfect for various ability levels. No matter how much money one ends up spending on a kite, it will be well worth it, as one will benefit with many afternoons of fun. To figure out which kite is best for you, ask for tips from a local hobbyist.



Clockwise from top: SPEEDS OF 40 M.P.H. and more have been reached by kite buggies like this one. KITES SPEAK for themselves as a designer displays merchandise at a convention. OVER $1000 was spent to connect these eight primary colored kites with four lines. As flyers become more advanced they connect kites for a greater challenge. FIRST THINGS FIRST, before a kite can take flight all the pieces must be adjusted to match the wind. A fellow kite enthusiast and Gospoderak tinker with the sport kite.

KFC vs Sandwich Chef

The Spartana's review team finds out which local food shop has better picnic friendly food

Emily: The obvious appeal of a KFC picnic is the easy meal of a bucket of chicken. That is a great selection that fits in perfectly with the cliche red and white checkered blanket. When we visited KFC, however, I chose a healthier, more individual meal. I ordered the KFC wrap that was a very good meal. However, it is not a great picnic sandwich. It is chicken, lettuce, and ranch dressing that is wrapped up in a flour tortilla. It was a little messy for the picnic scheme. My opinion, stick to the bucket of chicken!

Jon: When we decided to review different restaurants that could be used for a picnic, KFC quickly came to mind. It had been a long time since I had last eaten at KFC, so it took me awhile to decide. I finally settled upon the Triple Crunch. With three strips of chicken and a fine helping of cheese, the sandwich was excellent. I also had an order of potato wedges, which have always been a favorite of mine. All in all KFC would be a fine choice for a picnic.

Rebekah: At KFC, the grilled chicken sandwich is a good choice. It can be easily taken on a picnic and it is not too expensive. This sandwich is good for a casual picnic, where people don't want to spend a lot of money. Plus, at KFC one can purchase a number of foods to eat with the main course including mashed potatoes, biscuits, and potato wedges. The restaurant offers a great amount of variety for different preferences.

Emily: The Sandwich Chef is a great choice to supply food for a romantic picnic. This restaurant allows for a gourmet twist to the great outdoors. I enjoyed a grilled veggie panini; I would recommend it to all veggie lovers. This sandwich reminds me of an upscale grilled cheese sandwich. It is served on sourdough bread, with cheese, fresh veggies, and also ranch dressing. The side dishes Sandwich Chef offers are also a plus. The delicious Ice Cream Cafe is connected, just in case you want to take two scoops for the road.

Jon: Located in the friendly confines of Covington Plaza, The Sandwich Chef proves to be a great place to buy food for a picnic. The menu contains items that would be appetizing to anyone. Being a meat lover, I chose the Philly Beef. It contained roast beef, mayonnaise, and green peppers. It was even better than I expected, and cured my hunger immediately. Not only does the Sandwich Chef provide fine sandwiches, but the Ice Cream Cafe offers dessert. They always have a number of tasty ice cream flavors. This is the perfect way to cap off your picnic.

Rebekah: Sandwich Chef would be an excellent place to purchase food for a picnic. The ham and cheese wrap was really good, but it may not be the best choice for a picnic, because it was a quite messy. I bought a fruit cup to go with my meal, and it was also enjoyable. However, considering the amount of fruit that I was given, the price was a bit high.

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THE SPARTANA

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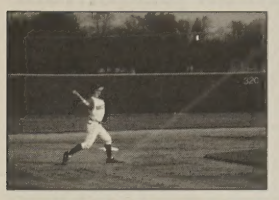
Homestead High School



Early success leads boys varsity baseball team to 6-1 season record

Sports, Page 6

A trip to a psychic advisor shows what the future holds

Diversions, Page 8

Days until Mother's Day:

16

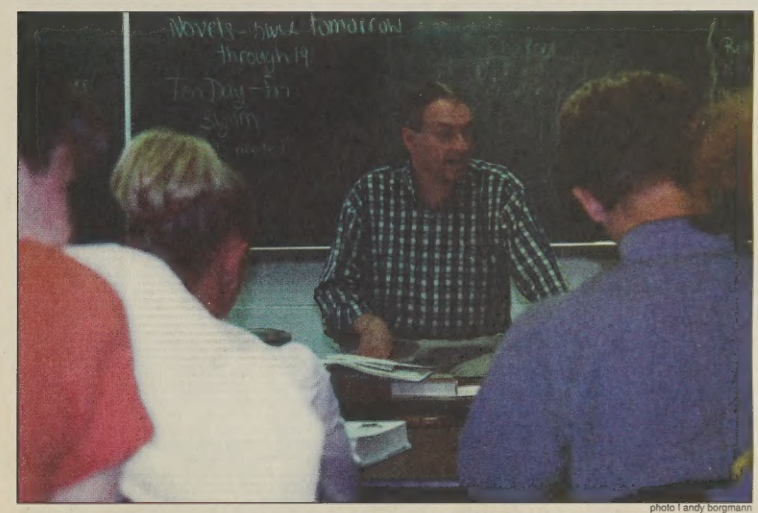


photo | andy borgmann

Labor *of* Love

English teacher Stephen Clough credits his Teacher of the Year award to the fact "that I believe that kids can do more than they think they can"

rebekah van drake
copy editor

English teacher Stephen Clough has been chosen as the school's annual Teacher of the Year. His win was determined by balloting conducted by members of the faculty. As such, he will now be considered for the honor of Southwest Allen County Teacher of the Year, in competition with teachers from the area's middle and elementary schools. The district's winner will compete at the state and possibly the national level.

Clough has a B.S. in English from Taylor University and a M.S. in Education from Indiana University at IPFW. After two years at Amelia High School in suburban Cincinnati, Clough has spent eighteen years teaching at Homestead. He currently teaches english literature, composition, and novels.

"The faculty nominates teachers, then the nominees are put out for voting," Clough said. "The total vote of the faculty determines the recipient."

Each school in Southwest Allen County chooses a nominee. These nominees then go on to compete for Teacher of the Year for the district. After that, the nominee is sent to the state level. Clough will find out sometime in May whether or not he will be the representative from the district.

This is Clough's first Teacher of the Year award. He follows Butch Wygant, a science teacher, who was chosen as the school and district Teacher of the Year for 1999-2000.

"Basically, the award is an honor because you are selected by peers," Clough said. "There aren't other phases to the award until the state level."

The experience of being awarded Teacher of the Year is different for each recipient. Clough feels honored by his nomination.

"The experience is very humbling to think that colleagues have given such an honor," Clough said. "The teacher has to think about living up to the award."

It is difficult to say specifically why an individual is chosen as Teacher of the Year. There are various reasons and characteristics that lead to a teacher's nomination.

"Every winner wonders why they were chosen," Clough said. "It does not have much to do with teaching style. I think it has to do with what I believe in, such as excellence, and that I believe that kids can do more than they think they can."

Inspiration is an integral part of teaching. Each person derives his or her feelings from different experiences.

"I think about models that I had in the past," Clough said. "My high school English teacher, Mrs. Hanes, and my college freshman composition teacher, Miss Studebaker, kept me focused and made me do more than I thought I could."

Stephen Clough, the school's Teacher of the Year representative, was nominated by his peers because of his willingness to bring out the best in students in hope that they might reach their full potential. Soon Clough will know whether or not he is advancing further, but either way he has received a great honor from his peers.

Excellence everywhere

Awards and recognition extend to other teachers

April Moss

Social studies teacher April Moss has been named the recipient of the Helene R. Foellinger Award for Excellence in Economic Education. She was chosen by a committee of principals and business people.

The award is given to an economics teacher each year who has shown exemplary effort in the teaching of that field. The winner of the Foellinger Award receives a green jacket and $1,000.

"This is a huge honor," Moss said. "One person is chosen in all of Northeast Indiana. I'm still kind of shocked. It's a wonderful award that was not expected."

photo | jenn vang

Tom Tricker

Tom Tricker, a teacher in the school's art department, recently received the Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellowship. The Lilly Foundation selects 80 fellows from hundreds of entries all over Indiana. Each fellow is awarded $7,500 to be used to purchase equipment and training as it relates to each proposal, written by the teachers applying. Tricker's proposal, titled "Gumby and Me: Animation in the High School Classroom," communicates his interest in the field of stop-motion animation. Tricker has even made plans to study with Tom Brierton, a stop-motion artist, for five weeks at his studio in Chicago during the summer. "This award is a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn more about something that I have been interested in and fascinated by ever since I was a kid," Tricker said. "I hope to be able to incorporate my knowledge of stop-motion animation into my Advanced Video production classes at Homestead next year."

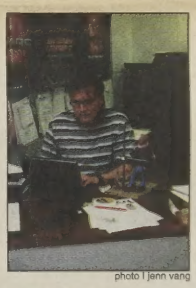


photo | jenn vang

Construction begins this summer on the school's student plaza

New student gathering area to include extensive landscaping and 'memory' bricks; slated grand opening in August

allison rahrig
news editor

As the weather warms up, students want to spend more and more of their time outdoors. Oftentimes, however, due to the limited seating at the designated student drop off/pick up doors, students are forced to wait inside when being picked up after school. When students return from summer vacation for the 2001-2002 school year, this will no longer be a concern.

Construction will begin in mid-July on the Homestead Student Plaza. The plaza will be located on the south side of the school, next to the Gymnasium/Auditorium entrance.

"We chose this particular location because it struck us as an area where students congregate and hook up with each other after football games and other activities," Brian Dobias, Music Boosters Club President, said. "Plus, it's an active entrance that isn't as nicely landscaped as, for instance, the front of the building. We wanted a nicer area for people to be able to hang out in."

The plaza will contain trees, bushes, benches, and other extensive landscaping. Also included will be 3,700 bricks lining the ground. The money needed to fund this $32,000 project will come from the selling of these bricks.

A 2-foot-square brick with the Spartan head and the words "Homestead Student Plaza" will serve as the cornerstone of the entire area. Twenty-five 8" x 8" bricks will be given to the school to display the school logo and commemorate athletic and fine arts achievements. The remaining bricks are 8" x 4" and will be sold for $50 to current students and alumni. The club needs to pre-sell 600 bricks between the end of April and the first of June.

"The 600 pre-sold bricks will allow us to install everything in the place where it should be," Dobias said. "There are a lot of expenses you don't think about. For instance, the top soil alone is $1,000. If we don't pre-sell 600, we will still continue with the project, but the money would be taken out of other Music Booster funds. Everything else [funds for fine arts] would be hung up for awhile, and we would have to recover that money at some point in the future."

photo | courtesy dianne moake

A COMPUTER RENDERING depicts the landscaping and seating area.

Once a brick is purchased, students, alumni, or relatives can decide what message to engrave. The bricks will be cut with an industrial laser and allow up to three lines of text, with twenty characters per line. The laser cut fuses the top of the brick, which will appear glass-like in the end, sealing the engraving and therefore making it last much longer than other engraving methods.

"The engraving gives students a chance to say, 'How do I want to be remembered? What do I most want to be remembered for?' Dobias said. "We want the bricks to be about students. Students could even collaborate and buy a brick for a teacher they really like. [The plaza] is almost a Homestead history, because students will be able to look for friends' names and read about friends. We're hoping the bricks will jog memories and inspire those 'Remember when...' moments."

The Music Boosters Club has yet to name the landscaper who will supply the plaza with greenery. Dobias is currently looking at four different companies who want the job.

"We need to do more things like this, and hopefully other schools, in the district especially, will see ours and want to take on similar projects," principal Dianne Moake said. "The great part about this project is that after the initial payments, all the money will go back to support students in the fine arts and music programs district-wide, not just at the high school level."

Dobias is preparing information as to how students and alumni can buy bricks. Any student interested in purchasing a brick should contact him at 432-4386.

EDITORIALS

The Editorial Review

Final exams mandatory for all seniors...

After years of leaving the choice of whether or not to seniors have to take exams at the end of the year up to individual teachers, the policy has been changed this year so that they all have to. The administration decided to mandate final exams for students after having several complaints from parents, who pointed to the fact that some students had to take exams and some didn't as unfair.

Not having to worry about exams in some classes has always been one of the luxuries of being a senior, but now that freedom is being revoked. This system has worked in the past because whether or not taking a final is necessary or apropos to a class has been left up to the discretion of the teacher of that class. Although it seems as though each students should be treated equally as far as having to worry about an equal number of exams, the past system was fair because the teacher's of the class know best whether or not they need a final.

Editor Board Vote: 1 in favor 3 opposed

Student government downsized...

Over the past few years, the number of people in student government has been intentionally lowered. The administration has been deliberately lowering the number of people in it, and have even proposed the idea of changing student government to an after-school activity. One would assume that the goal of these changes is increased efficiency within the group, but this downsizing will more than likely have more adverse effects than positive ones. Student government has been criticized in the past for its lack of ambition, but the members in it willing to work balance the slackers. The lest positions open in it, however, the less possibilities to be filled with people that are actually beneficial.

Editor Board Vote: 3 in favor 1 opposed

ID badges for students useless...

In an attempt to defer violence at Homestead, the administration has discussed making ID badges, similar to those that all staff members are now required to wear, mandatory for students, as well. Although well-intended, these ID badges would have little effect on someone who wished to shoot someone at school, since most of these shootings have been the result of someone who attended the school (and would thus have ad ID badge) anyway.

These badges could not prevent violence, and they would only waste money.

Editor Board Vote: 3 in favor 1 opposed

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The Spartana is a bimonthly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to educate, enlighten, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Staff members of *The Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the paper. Students will be assisted by the adviser is areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Emily Figel

Emily is a senior and works as associate editor for *the Spartana*.

Focus on looks leads to unfair judgement

Walking through the halls, I have noticed one specific topic that keeps popping up in random conversations. The discussion that I hear is generally dictated by statements of, "I am so fat," or "I look horrible in this." Everywhere I turn, I see girls who are so focused on appearance that they don't care about anything else throughout the school day.

Is it their fault though? Should the superficial students solely take the blame for focusing too much on appearances? The only thing I hear that is more prevalent than complaints about oneself is slams on other peoples' looks. No one likes to hear someone else make rude comments about one's outfit selection, or even worse, one's personal appearance, which is something that one can do very little about. Therefore, it is only natural that students will have low self-esteem and very little self-confidence.

High school is difficult enough with all of the important decisions and maturation processes that occur. The last thing people need is to have to worry so much about appearances to avoid judgment by other students.

Let's think about this logically. How important is physical appearance in order to achieve success? Not very. However, how important is physical appearance in order to be happy? That is another story. Our society has made such a big deal about being "beautiful" that a large percentage of people, particularly females, cannot be happy without being your classic "Barbie-doll." Now, lets face it, our bodies are not built to look like Barbie.

So, should individuals be considered vain if they stress about their looks? Or, is society to blame for people's depression about obesity and other "unattractive" features? There is not an easy solution to this issue. Society is not going to change its standards about beauty; therefore, individuals are not going to be any less judgmental. And, we know that these conditions will result in many people having unhappy views about themselves.

So, as Americans, this vanity issue is something that will undoubtedly affect all of our lives. There is no quick fix, that is true. However, making judgments about other people in order to boost personal confidence is not helping the problem. Make a concerted effort to try and cut the judgments out of discussions. The positive results could make someone's day a little brighter.

Andrew Borgman

Andrew is a senior and works as a guest writer for *the Spartana*.

Administration handles fear, not problem

In light of the recent school shootings, many school are attempting to take actions that will ensure the safety of its students. Homestead is no exceptions to this. However, the current manner in which administrators across the country are addressing the constantly escalating problems of violence is all wrong. They seem to be great at addressing the fear but not the actual problems.

I recently took a trip out to Denver, CO for spring break to visit some relatives. While I was there, I had some time to myself so I decided to drive over to Columbine to see what it was like. Of course, with camera in hand, I was not expecting to get very far on the school grounds. To my surprise I was never directed to leave the premises. I even passed a school administrator and he said nothing.

Not being escorted off the campus was the least of my surprises for that afternoon. I was expecting police officers in the parking lot, security cameras at all corners of the building, students with name tags on, locked doors, and the like. However, none of this was apparent to me. In fact, what surprised me the most was I actually saw students walking around outside and leaving for lunch. You can't be telling me that the notorious Columbine High School would actually allow students to leave freely during the school hours can you? Well to make absolutely sure of this I decided to get in contact with a Columbine student and ask her a few questions.

Nicole had a lot to say on the security of her school. She confirmed my observation that Columbine does have an open campus lunch program. She even went so far as to say that, "It is very free [here at Columbine] and we come and go as we please." Does that sound like something one would say about Homestead? I think not. Nicole went on to tell me that they do have one uniformed police officer in their school. However, they had this police officer long before the shooting. After the shooting, name tags were implemented. However, the administration came to the realization that it was ineffective because it didn't keep the school any safer. All in all, the only thing that has truly changed at Columbine is the addition of security cameras around the building.

So why am I going through all the things that Columbine has done, or should I say has not done, to keep its school safe? Well, I am doing it in comparison to the changes the Homestead administration is considering. If you don't know let me inform you of some of the changes Homestead is considering for the next school year. First of all, as we all know from the essay we had to do one morning, Homestead is considering forcing students to wear name tags for next year. My question is what will name tags solve? Who actually thinks that by making 1823 students wear name tags the school will be a safer environment?

Another consideration to keep Homestead a safer environment is to lock all the doors during the school day. In order to get in the school between 2nd period and 7th period, someone would have to ring a doorbell on the front of the school and be buzzed in by someone in the office. School shooters are not outsiders, trespassing their way into the building. They are students who would be in school during the time they are suppose to be, and wearing name tags if they were instructed to. These "solutions" to school security are pathetic.

One more possibility that I feel students and parents should be aware of, is that next year the school board is considering making juniors and seniors pay anywhere from 30 to 45 dollars for a parking permit. That would pay for the cops who sit in the parking lot. Having cops in schools does not make schools safer. As Nicole told me, they had police officers in their schools before the shootings even took place, and that obviously did no good. Police officers only make the schools more like a prison, which makes no one happy. So if you are a sophomore or junior who is unhappy to hear of this possible 900% increase, I have advice for you: ride the bus. If every junior and senior refused to buy a parking pass, it would not be long before the administration would realize their error. There is no way for our school district to consistently bus an extra 600 students.

The Homestead administration is good at doing one thing, addressing fear. They are responsive to student fears and they do what they can, but making a school safer is no easy task. If Homestead is to be a safe school it will be because the students choose to act in a safe manner. And if the administrators want to do anything to ensure the safety of Homestead they would be wise to realize what Columbine did. Columbine knows that even though Dylan and Eric had absolutely no reason to do what they did, their administration does realize that there are a lot of students unhappy with their high school environment. So instead of turning their school into a prison, like many schools try to do, they have decided to make it a warmer environment for all students. Not taking away privileges that 99.9% of students are able to handle, and not adding elements of school security that are not necessary. Homestead would be wise to back off increasing school security and to work more on making the school a more accepting environment. That, and that alone, will make Homestead the safest place possible.

aussie al's Cheers & Jeers of America

Cheers to... "American" accents because they're cool, just like they are on the TV.

Jeers to... the lack of knowledge about Ayers Rock because it's a bloody huge rock.

Cheers to... not wearing uniforms to school. After wearing the colors brown, white, and yellow for eleven years, you would understand, too.

Jeers to... meeting people who can't tell the difference between "coat" and "coke."

Cheers to... the option of buying anything you need, from lobsters to bicycles, under one roof.

Jeers to... the beaches, if that's what you want to call them, that I visited over Spring Break for being dirty, shelly, and having no waves.

Cheers to... the variety of subjects offered in the school system.

Jeers to... the ability to buy cigarettes and guns but not being allowed a single drink at age 18.

Cheers to... "The Dish," Steve "Crocodile Hunter" Irwin, and Tammin Surrock for showcasing the Aussie talent in American culture.

different voices

Do you think seniors should have to take finals?

"I don't think they should take finals because if I was a senior I would not want to take finals."
Allison Cosbey (9)

"No, I don't think they should take finals."
Erin Kinzer (10)

"I don't think they should have to take finals because none of the other senior classes had to take finals so it would not be fair to this year's seniors."
Jason Mullins (11)

"I don't think seniors should take finals because I took all my hard classes second semester thinking I would not have to take finals."
Matt Nicholson (12)

photos | eric patterson

Second annual Spring Arts Week to be held

ben jones
assistant news editor

The second annual Spring Arts Week is scheduled to take place April 30 to May 5. The week takes place in recognition of the Fine Arts department and students. The week will include two convocations, the spring musical, and a display student art.

"All performing arts students, like dance, drama, and music, will be involved in Spring Arts Week," art teacher Cindy Husar said. "The visual arts displays can involve anyone in the school but is mainly composed of art students."

Spring Arts Week began last year as a way to acknowledge those students who invest their time into the fine arts at school. Spring Arts Week is a moment of distinction for students who are often overlooked when compared to the recognition given to students participating in sports.

"[Spring Arts week] is important because it gives students a chance to showcase their talents to the community," Husar said. "It's important for students to show off their abilities, for people to see the level of talent in the school, and to see what is available to them."

Spring Arts Week begins on Monday as a week of recognition for all the students involved in the high school Fine Arts programs. The events will include:

•Daily lunch musical performances Tuesday through Friday in all lunch modules in rooms 314 and 316.

•The Spring Musical, "Grease" on May 4, 5, 11, and 12 at 8:00. Tickets are $6 at lunch and $8 at the door. A coffee house with musical performances by teachers Stephen Clough, Mike Goversten, and student musicians will be held before and after the show, from 6:00 to 7:30 and from 10:00 to midnight.

•Book Fair on Thursday and Friday in the community room.

•Student Art Gallery held Tuesday to Friday, 7:15 to 3:15. Artwork by teachers and students will be sold. All proceeds either go directly to the student artist or to support the Fine Arts program at Homestead.

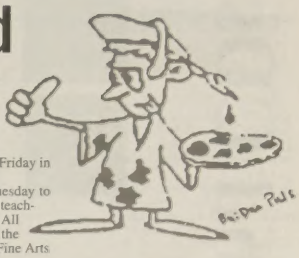

photo | will vragovic

Mirador holds concert to raise funds

AN ADEPT MUSICIAN, Drew Billings (12), performs a solo for the audience attending the first-ever Mirador concert, which consisted entirely of student acts. On March 21, the *Mirador* magazine held a concert to raise funds toward its publication. The show was held in the auditorium. The staff held auditions the week beforehand, and accepted more than ten acts to perform during the night.

The night was hosted by Gil Haynie (12), who manned the microphone between acts. The concert was considered a success, raising nearly half of the funds needed for the continuation of the publication. However, the success was nearly overshadowed by damage caused by the actions of a few delinquent performers.

After-Prom at Golf Dome provides safe and alternative atmosphere

viktoria hutorskaya
writer

What could possibly be a better end to Prom than to go to the Golf Dome? The Golf Dome is in fact the location of this year's After-Prom party.

After paying a $2 admission fee, a wide variety of entertaining events, which include casino games, batting cages, music, and miniature golf will be available. Everybody will receive a packet with casino money and free miniature golf tickets. There will also be food, drinks, and a chance to win a door prize.

"Door prizes are going to be given away every 15 minutes. The number of door prizes we will give away will depend on how many things are donated. My guess will be six to eight at a time. The door prize may for example include three car washes or medium pizza," Joyce Augsburger said. "I don't think pre-sales are going to be included. They did not have much success in previous years."

For the last few years, After-Prom has traditionally been held at Westwood Lanes. Instead of bowling, a different kind of entertainment is going to be available. It is inevitable that more students are going to be attracted by the change.

"According to the recorded data, 244 students have spent After-Prom with us last year," Augsburger said. "We are very excited about the upcoming one. It is a different place and has lots of activities prepared."

The organizers of this year's After-Prom have great expectations, because it is going to take place in a different location and will offer alternative types of activities. Organizers are changing the pace and are trying to move away from the past routine.

"As far as I know for the last 10 to 15 years students have been doing bowling After-Prom," Sandy Cleaver said. "For at least last five years it took place at the Westwood Lanes. This year, students are going to benefit more spending After- Prom at the Golf Dome instead. It is closer to home and has a larger area for dance. Westwood Lanes was not big enough."

One does not need to go to Prom to be able to enjoy After-Prom at the Golf Dome. Also, school policies and Prom rules are going to be applied at the After-Prom Party as well.

"The Homestead Parent Club, junior class and merchants sponsor the After-Prom activities," Augsburger said. "That means that all school rules are going to be applied: no smoking, drinking, and things like that."

There are two domes at the Golf Dome. However, the dome containing the driving range was not rented because it would be too difficult to pick up all the balls.

Both students and parents will be satisfied with the After-Prom Party. Parents do not need to worry about kids getting in trouble and students do not need to think about their parents waiting for them.

"It is a fun and safe place to go and spend time with your friends till three in the morning," Augsburger said. "We have never had any troubles at the After-Prom as there are always plenty of parents and security. We have rented the building, so it is going to be closed to the general public."

News Briefs

PARENT AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS HELPED raise money at the Southwest Allen County Educational Foundation Fundraising Campaign. The "Ringing for Education" telethon was held from April 23-26. Volunteers called residents in the southwest area and asked for donations to remedy the funding shortages created by Indiana's equalization formula. The funds that were raised will be applied toward keeping small class sizes for lower grades at elementary schools, providing mini-grants for teachers, and providing career pathways programs for high school students. Pledges will be accepted through July 1, and parents or community members can donate to the project at any time. All gifts are tax-deductible.

"IF YOU BUILD IT, WE WILL PLAY," reads the slogan for the soon-to-be-constructed Three Rivers Junction, a community-built playground for Allen County. The playground will be located in the new township park on Aboite Center Road, east of Summit Middle School. Privately funded, all donations to the project are tax-deductible. Volunteers will be building the playground May 15 to 20. Meals and child care will be provided. For information about volunteering, contact Key Club or log on to www.swacpark.com. Homestead will be holding a walk, similar to last year's World War II walk, on May 18. Students and teachers donate money to walk around the track for a class period. All proceeds will go to Three Rivers Junction.

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE SPARTANA Andy Savieo's (12) name was omitted from the "Student videos exhibited at local Windsong Film Festival last weekend" article. Savieo was a part of the group that produced "False Gods."

Calendar

May 4,5,11,12—Spring Musical, "Grease"
May 19—Junior-Senior Prom
May 23—Fine Arts Awards
May 24—Academic Awards
May 28—Memorial Day - No school
May 29—Spring Athletic Awards

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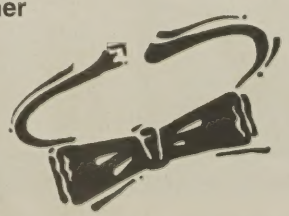

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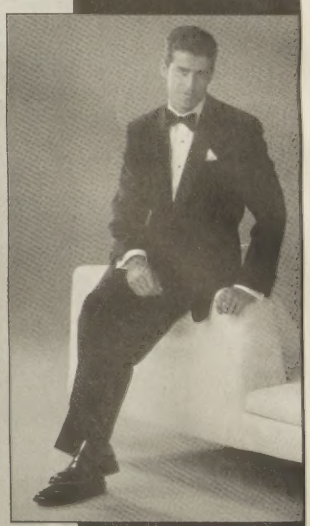

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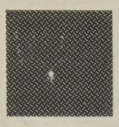
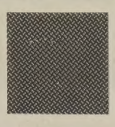
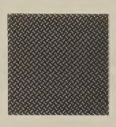


1. Now 6
   Various Artists
2. Until the End of Time
   2Pac
3. The Life
   Ginuwine
4. Hotshot 5
   Shaggy
5. Live in New York City
   Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band



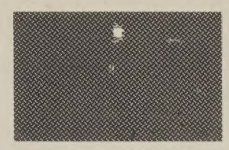
6. Everyday
   Dave Matthews Band
7. Endangered Species
   Big Pun
8. Chocolate Starfish and the Hot Dog Flavored
   Limp Bizkit
9. No Angel 3
   Dido
10. No Name Face
    Lifehouse



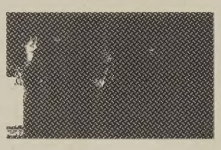
Entertainment

What's at the top of the charts?

Spy Kids



Along Came a Spider



Bridget Jones's Diary

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles

Freddy Got Fingered

Kingdom Come

Joe Dirt

Blow

Josie and the Pussycats

Emeny at the Gates

Students go to work

Efforts to help community offers rewards

mary rozman
writer

Why would students want to work several hours and not get paid for their services?

An estimated thirteen million teens, more than half of America's teen population volunteer. Teens give an estimated 3.5 hours per week to volunteering, totaling 2.4 billion hours.

For the past four months, Jennifer Oberhausen (9) has been volunteering at Lutheran Hospital in the nursing unit. Oberhausen volunteers four hours a week and executes tasks that include: refilling the linen closet, giving patients ice water, and filing papers. Volunteers at Lutheran are not authorized to carry out any medical duties and must work a minimum of four hours a week.

"Volunteering at Lutheran is a rewarding experience, especially talking and interacting with the patients," Oberhausen said. "People really appreciate your help, and are very thankful."

More than eight of the ten people surveyed said they volunteered because they felt compassion for those in need. Nearly three-fourths of the respondents volunteered because they had an interest in the activity or work, and 70% volunteered to gain a new perspective about certain issues.

"The student volunteers work really well with the patients, as well as helping the nurses out tremendously with secretarial work," said Gail Milne, the head of volunteer central at Lutheran Hospital.

Milne works with teen volunteers daily. According to Milne, there are approximately seventy student volunteers at Lutheran Hospital. When students volunteer they must receive two MMR shots (mumps, measles, and rubella) and a tuberculosis test. In addition, students who plan to volunteer must attend a two hour orientation.

Volunteering can often times be a useful asset to college resumes. According to Milne, Lutheran writes college reference letters for volunteers.

"When you volunteer you receive nothing tangible, but after you've done your best to help others out, it's better than anything tangible you can attain," said Ray Keller (9).

Keller volunteers through Key Club and also at Lutheran Hospital. Keller works on the Diagnostical/Surgical floor, which is an outpatient floor. He carries files, works with the nurses, makes beds, and restocks the kitchen. Keller and Irene Kim (12) decided to volunteer at Lutheran because they wanted to get a perspective on jobs in the medical field.

photos | john joseph

HOME TO MANY OF THE SCHOOL'S VOLUNTEER WORKERS, Lutheran Hospital offers a wide variety of jobs for students seeking to help the community.

"Volunteering builds people skills because you're working with doctors, nurses, patients, and loved ones," said Kim.

While volunteering at Lutheran for the past year, Kim has been working on the Emergency Registration floor and Surgical floor. Kim is assigned to: direct people who need immediate attention, secretarial work, take patients to their designated areas, and direct loved one to the patients.

Both Keller and Kim said that the only downside to volunteering is when things are running slow and the administrators don't have much planned for them to do. However, both strongly encouraged volunteering to students.

Various teachers at Homestead offer students the choice of taking a final exam or volunteering in the community. Students normally volunteer 25 hours of time a semester - 20 are required and 5 are for extra credit.

"I would recommend volunteering to other students to get out of a final exam because it's an activity that makes you feel good, like you're doing something beneficial for the community," said Andrea Murray (9).

Volunteering at the Aboite Library, YMCA, and Covington Commons, Murray was able to avoid taking her final exam. Murray most enjoyed working at Covington Commons because she was able to talk to the residents and entertain them. Murray said it was a worthwhile experience.

Approximately one-third of young people in grades 7-12 identified "working for the good of the community and country" and "helping others or volunteering" as very important future goals.

Job + hard work + discipline = extra cash

john joseph
writer

Looking for some extra cash? Why not get a job? Many teens throughout Homestead are looking for a temporary job. But how young is too young to start looking for work?

"I work at McDonald's, and I consider it a temporary job, maybe for a couple years of high school," said Troy Welti (10), age 15. "But because of my age, I can only work very few hours."

There may be some disadvantages to starting work at a younger age of 14 or 15. Indiana State Child Labor Laws require a work permit.

Work permits are obtained through one's school. Unfortunately for the "money hungry" students, high school teens can only work 18 hours a week, and on school days teens are only permitted to work 3 hours between 3:30 and 7:00pm. Although this is a precedent set by the state of Indiana, not all employers follow these guidelines. Some employers restrict their employees even more.

"At McDonald's, they only allow me to work Saturday and Sunday for 4 hours each day," said Welti. "I'm happy with the job, but I just wish I had more hours. I'm looking forward to summer."

photos | john joseph

WORKING HARD AT PERFECTION AUTOWASH, Gary Fitzgerald (12) dries a van as part of his daily routine.

The reason many teens are looking forward to summer is because the Child Labor Laws change on non-school weeks. An employee of ages 14 or 15 could theoretically work 40 hours a week when school is not in session.

"I've been working part time at my Dad's company for about a year, and it's nice to have extra money for movies and electronics, such as CD's or stereo equipment," said employed Homestead student John Maurer (10). "Even though I've recently turned 16, the Indiana State Child Labor Laws are the same for me. My hours are very limited."

One might begin to ask himself whether putting the energy into finding and holding a job is worth the results. According to Maurer, it's well worth it.

"It's worth the time you put in if you have the right hours, good enough pay, and a job that interests you," said Maurer.

So how does one find a job that interests him or her? A teen actively seeking employment could speak with employed friends, their parents, or employers themselves. Other options for the students seeking work is the Internet.

Applications are available at most any store or business you visit. One should keep his eyes peeled for 'Help Wanted,' or 'Now Hiring' as well.

"Age is a big factor," said Kroger Foods Store Manager Michaela Minore when asked about what she looks for in potential employees. "Availability is important as well, along with communication skills and overall friendliness. If they are mature enough to look me in the eyes and carry on a conversation with me, they've pretty much got the job," said Minore.

Minore, who has been manager of the Kroger Foods Store for more than a year is in charge or hiring applicants and finding the right people for the job at hand.

Cole Quickery (9) is an employee at Kroger who works for Minore and other store managers. Quickery had a different incentive for finding a job.

"I needed money pretty bad. I was just plain old tired of being out with my friends and having to borrow money because I was broke all the time," said Quickery. "I've had the job since last May of last year and so far its done what I've expected it to do for me. The job has put a little extra cash in my pocket."

One shouldn't let the Indiana State Child Labor Laws get him or her down. Although the laws do limit the number of hours one can work, little is better than none when it comes to having some extra cash to spend. Some of the more popular workplaces for Homestead teens include Kroger, Scotts, Meijer, Perfection Autowash, and most any of the nearby fast food restaurants such as McDonalds, Wendys, Arbys, Burger King, or Taco Bell.

"Even if you may not think your job is worth your time now, you'll appreciate it when you have extra spending money on the weekends and in the summer. It's never too early to start looking for work," said Maurer.

Even though the time may be limited for the teens willing to work, the pleasure of having money in one's hand and being able to spend it on oneself, is a great reward.

Out of School Sports grow

Club sports gain popularity among students

melanie kuehnert
writer

Tired of spending your afternoons and weekends sitting at home watching the same televisions shows day after day? Want something new and exciting to try? Homestead's club sports may be just the thing for you.

Club sports are not the typical sports like basketball, football and volleyball. Rather one will find rugby, hockey and bowling as the typical club sports. These teams are considered clubs because they are either to expensive to be supported by the Athletic Department or there are not enough schools in the state participating in them.

"Technically, rugby isn't even a club here, and we are not affiliated with the school," player Jeanne Gemender (12) said.

Rugby is a kicking, passing, and tackling game; it is considered a distant ancestor of American football. The ball resembles an American football. It is 24 inches at it's widest circumferences, making it easier to kick but more difficult to pass. The girl's rugby coach said that the game requires conditioning, attitude, teamwork and skill.

"Rugby is (smash mouth) with end zones and no forward passes," said Rudy Mahara (11), a boy's rugby participant.

Contrary to most people's beliefs, rugby does not require any heavy padding because blocking and interference are illegal.

"The school hasn't approved the sport yet because it is too new and it is very dangerous," said Mahara.

One should take Rugby, for example, because there are many challenges for the participants. Since rugby isn't associated with the school, no publicity or money is granted to the team members. This can cause some problems.

"Since we are not school sponsored, we sometimes have a hard time getting information out," said Gemender. "We have to rely heavily on making numerous phone calls, passing flyers out, and simply spreading the word since the morning announcements are unavailable to us."

Because Rugby is seen as a new sport, people seem to take more of a liking to it.

"People have played football all their life and know the sport very well," said Mahara. "I thought I could get a fresh start with a new sport by joining rugby."

This will be a first year for the girls to have a team and a second year for the boys. The school must maintain the number of teams between boys and girls even.

"I first became interested in the sport last year. I went to a couple of their games and I also saw it on TV," said Gemender. "Ever since then, I had hoped there would be a team for the girls."

Rugby's popularity is growing rapidly in the United States. One of the main reasons why the sport is becoming so popular is because it is new, exciting and rough.

"The sport is fun and exciting, and I see it as a way to 'vent' my anger when it builds up over time," said Mahara.

Bowling is also a very successful club sport which has been gaining popularity.

"Bowling is considered a club because there are not enough schools in Indiana participating in it," said Nate Ott (9), a bowling team member.

Bowling is a sport that challenges one's mind and thinking skills, and that is what makes it fun for some team members.

"I enjoy bowling because it is a challenging sport," said Ott. "One must have about 90 percent of their game mental and about ten percent physical."

Like most loyal team members, Andrew McKeeman (10) wanted to make the team to support the school.

"I like the sport, and I wanted to represent Homestead," said McKeeman.

The bowling team practices a couple hours a day and up to 3 days a week, at local bowling alley.

Hockey is one last sport that is a club. Along with not having enough teams in Fort Wayne to compete against, hockey is a very expensive sport, and because of this, the school will not fund the team. All the equipment costs come out of the players' own pockets.

Some teams in Fort Wayne are pushing for hockey to become a sport in their school. One reason McMillen increased its ice arena is because of the growth in popularity of hockey.

"Hockey is a different type of sport, and people start to play it and never want to quit," said Reed Nicholson (12), alternate captain of practice for the team is on Mondays and there was conditioning everyday during preseason. The team has games on Tuesdays and tournaments on the weekends, so this club sport isn't too time consuming.

"I have been playing since third grade, and I just connected with the sport," said Nicholson. "After I started playing, I never wanted to quit. I don't know many people who started playing and quit."

Kudos to the students who remain loyal to these sports, even though they may not receive recognition from the school. These students, on their own account, bring a code of conduct that brings acknowledgment to the school in spite of no support. It doesn't matter that these sports may not be directly related to the school, they are still a major part of many students' lives.

photos | john joseph

RUSHING TO THE AID OF HER FRIEND, Elizabeth Polleys (10) rushes to Danielle Teagarden (10) as she is tackled by Jeanne Gemender (12).

Martial Arts provides a new kind of workout

rick yarger
writer

Many sports only help strengthen the body, but martial arts also helps strengthen one's mind.

One of the popular forms of martial arts is Tang Soo Do. Tang Soo Do is an ancient form of Korean martial arts that is studied on six continents.

"Tang Soo Do is more of an 'art' than a 'sport,'" said Instructor Kerry Roudebush.

"Most importantly, it requires a willingness to practice and succeed - not just physical ability."

Roudebush is a third degree black belt who has been taking Tang Soo Do for eleven years and teaching for five of those years.

"Tang Soo Do provides people with the opportunity to succeed," said Roudebush. "I enjoy watching people change and progress through martial arts."

Martial arts is mostly an individual sport, but it does allow one to help and assist others in their learning.

"I enjoy martial arts because it gives me a good workout and teaches me self defense," said Gene Kim (9). "Sometimes the practices can be hard, but that motivates me to do better."

Kim has taken Tang Soo Do for nearly three years and has obtained his red belt. The time it takes for one to achieve a certain belt level depends on the style he or she practices.

"I first got interested in martial arts when my family started," said Irene Kim (12).

"I love practicing different forms and techniques. Some of the most complicated ones are the most fun."

Martial arts is more than fighting. It also stresses the importance of the mind, and the quality of a technique is more important than how powerful it is.

"Tang Soo Do has taught me discipline, confidence, and respect," said Noah Duncan (11). "I am very happy with my progress, and I look forward to traveling to Asia someday and experiencing a different culture."

One can attend a Tang Soo Do class as frequent as he or she wants, and the cost for training can range anywhere from $50 to $70 a month.

For more information about martial arts, visit or call C.S. Kim Karate, Inc. 5825 Covington Road Fort Wayne, IN 46804 459 - 6044

photos | john joseph

IN THE MIDDLE OF A TECHNIQUE, Noah Duncan (11) poses in one of his most intricate forms (left). His instructor, Kerry Roudebush, also poses in a more advanced form (top).

photos | john joseph

PREPARING FOR A SPARRING MATCH, **Noah Duncan (11) gets in a fighting stance (right) while his opponent, Sandra Volpe (9), prepares to defend herself.**

Wrestling travels from the TV screen to the backyard

rick yarger
writer

Throwing objects and themselves at each other, back yard wrestlers are the most dedicated teens to wrestling.

"Backyard Wrestling" is the general term given to untrained people contesting professional wrestling matches. Most often, these matches take place in the backyards of kids' houses.

"I wrestle everywhere - in backyards, basements, and bedrooms," said Derek Daniels (10). "It allows you to release built up stress and still have a good time with your friends."

"Backyard wrestling is awesome," said Cole Watkins (10). "It's fun and exciting knowing that you can do things just like the professionals on TV."

High school teenagers watching wrestling has become more and more popular over the past four years.

"I started watching wrestling a few years ago," said Watkins, "But I didn't seriously begin to wrestle until last year."

Professional wrestling typically involves violent actions, such as throwing people through tables or hitting them with steel chairs and baseball bats.

"I use milk cartons and sticks that I know will break when I wrestle," said Watkins. "I don't use anything that I could hurt someone with - the goal is to have fun and not get hurt."

He uses gloves so he does not hurt his knuckles, according to Daniels. But he rarely wears any form of padding.

Many wrestling techniques are dangerous as well as life threatening. Infamous moves such as the DDT, for example, could cause someone to get a broken neck in seconds.

"I don't think that backyard wrestling is really that dangerous if you act kind of responsible," said Watkins. "Fortunately I've never been hurt. Though one time I did get my head slammed into a window, but all that happened was the screen was bent."

There are great risks associated with wrestling. One could hurt himself or hurt someone else accidentally.

"I have never got hurt that bad," said Daniels. "But one time I did get hit in the nuts."

Backyard wrestling is often challenged because it takes place without adult supervision.

"My parents don't really like me wrestling, so they usually stop me or tell my friends to leave," said Watkins.

"I usually don't wrestle when my parents are around," said Daniels.

Teenagers seem to enjoy wrestling, and despite the known consequences, many of them continue to wrestle.

photos | john joseph

PREPARING FOR IMPACT, Cole Watkins(10) performs another reenactment of a stunt derived from pro wrestlers on TV. Although the hobby is dangerous, Derek Daniels(10),here with Watkins, still spends his time perfecting his "backyard wrestling" technic.

photos | john joseph

READY TO ATTACK, Cole Watkins (10) prepares to attack Derek Daniels (10) in a reenactment of pro wrestling.

Sports

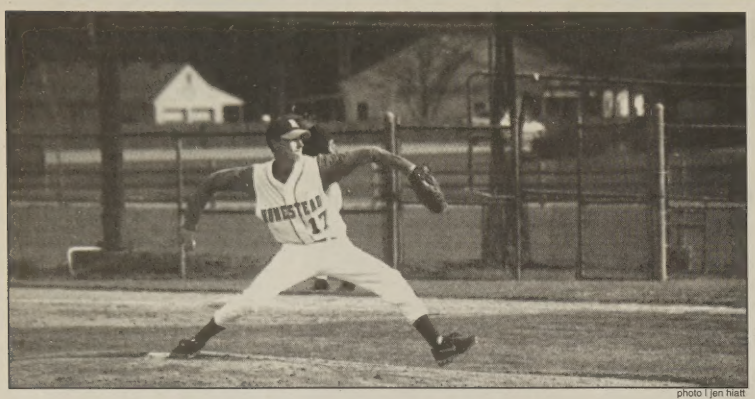


photo | jen hiatt

STRIDING TOWARDS THE PLATE, starting pitcher Kevin Watson (12) releases a pitch in a recent game. The Spartans pitching staff is fortified with an array of juniors and seniors that have helped the team to a 6-1 record.

Baseball living up to expectations

steve appel
co-editor in chief

The Spartan baseball season only has one blemish on the win-loss record so far. The splitting of a double header has been the only loss on the young season. Compared with the team's preseason expectations of themselves, they feel they are on target to what they expected of themselves.

"So far, it's pretty much what I expected," coach Keith Potter said. "I knew we had good talent, and it's just a matter of getting out their and playing the games. We're 5-1 (before the April 24 game), and we could easily be 6-0 and I figured we'd be right around there."

According to Potter, defense and pitching have been what is carrying the team. The team has been consistent throughout the season.

"Our defense has been outstanding," Potter said. "We only have four errors in six games, and that's tremendous for a high school. Our pitching, with the exception of one or two games, has been real strong. So, really about the only area we haven't done as well as we should have is base running."

The season opened with a 3-1 win over Blackford on April 3. The Spartans scored two runs in the fifth inning to take the lead. Kevin Watson (12) was the winning pitcher, scattering five hits and striking out four for a complete game.

On April 11, the Spartans played a double header against Marion. Max Guyll (11) gave up three earned runs in his only inning on the mound but did so only after providing enough offense to compensate. The Spartans were tied at three heading into the top of the seventh inning, when Guyll hit a grand slam in midst of a five run inning to carry the team to a 8-6 victory.

In the second game of the double header, the Spartans lost 9-7. They led 7-2 heading into the bottom of the sixth inning but gave up seven runs in the frame. The Spartans were unable to recover from the late rally and suffered their only loss of the year.

"Basically we had a five run lead going into the sixth inning and just the pitcher got tired, which happens all the time," Robert Kitchens (12) said. "He pitched a great game and then gave up a couple walks and then a couple home runs that probably normally wouldn't be home runs because the wind was blowing out. The defense kind of let us down on a couple plays. Basically it was over all team patheticness, team mental lapse."

The April 12 game saw a 7-2 win over Concordia. Watson once again recorded the win, and Ian Grandstaff (11) closed out the ball game. Kitchens, Brady Laughlin (11), and R.J. Sanfrey (12) all had a pair of hits, including three doubles buy the first two players and a homer by Sanfrey.

"They (Concordia) made some defensive mistakes, but we swung the bats well," Potter said. "We hit the ball hard, and that pitcher from Concordia is supposed to be one of the best in the city. We just swung the bats well, and they helped us out with a couple defensive mistakes."

The most lopsided game of the year was on April 13 against Bishop Dwenger. The Spartans nailed out 14 hits and 13 runs in the win. After that win, the Spartans faced a much closer game against Huntington North, a team suffering from last season's graduation. A 3-1 victory was highlighted by multi-hit games from Laughlin, and Justin Scutchfield (11) in addition to another complete game from Watson

"They had two hits, and they didn't have a runner past first base the entire game," Kitchens said. "That did it for us. The bats weren't there for that game. We got a lot of hits we just couldn't score runs, but we didn't need to, because we got great pitching."

On April 25, the Spartans had another blowout victory, defeating East Noble 11-2. The Spartans were catapulted by a nine run fourth inning, and David Lindsmeyer (11) recorded the win

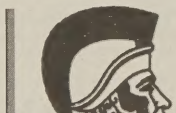
"[In the fourth inning] we started taking some aggressive moves on the base paths, we got to running, and we just made pretty good contact to move runners around," Guyll said. "We manufactured some runs—there shortstop made three errors in that inning, and that kind of helped us out a little.

The team is focusing on attempting to improve their overall play, with no specific area a main concern. Clutch play, however, is one point of emphasis.

"I think improvement just needs to be made in all-around play," Kitchens said. "With defense, our defense is strong. I think it's just the mental side of the game that we have to improve a lot on with base running and timely hitting."

Yesterday the Spartans took on Columbia City but results were not available as of press time.

April 28 doubleheader: Elmhurst at Homestead, game one will start at 10:00 a.m. General admission is $3.00



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In the Spotlight Josh Murphy

Imagine sprinting down a runway, leaping to heights above ten feet, and basking in the glory are all elements of pole-vaulting. One athlete who demonstrates those elements is Josh Murphy (12). Murphy is the school's current record holder in the pole vault with a 15 feet six inch fault.

Spartana: How long have you been pole-vaulting?

Murphy: "Since the eighth grade, so five years."

Spartana: How did you first get involved in track?

Murphy: "I just decided to do it one year. Some of the coaches told me I should try it, so I decided to try it."

Spartana: What other events do you participate in?

Murphy: "The 200, high jump, and this year I'm running the four by one."

Spartana: Do you have a preference out of any of your events?

Murphy: "Definitely pole-vaulting. I like to fly through the air. It's fun."

Spartana: What do you do to prepare for a meet?

Murphy: "I just try to get a few good practice jumps before the meet starts. The rest of the time I just sit around and talk to the other vaulters there. I try to make sure that my steps are good. That's the biggest problem I have when I go to away meets."

Spartana: What are your accomplishments thus far?

Murphy: "I have the school record. I went to state my sophomore year. I pretty much bombed out. Last year I broke my foot at regionals."

Spartana: How does it feel to break a school record?

Murphy: "It's pretty cool. [It's] definitely a good thing."

Spartana: Do you train or practice during the off-season?

Murphy: "My season doesn't really stop until about mid-September. Then I start up again in January. So, there's only about three months out of the year that I don't vault. I just go to the track meets that are open to the public. There's meets at New Haven that I go to. Then I vault in the Hoosier games."

Spartana: Do you have any goals for this year?

Murphy: "This year I would like to make at least 16 feet and medal at state."

Spartana: What do you think it will take to get there?

Murphy: "I've got to work on getting on these bigger poles. They're going to be the key to going over 16 feet. If I can get on some of these bigger poles, that will make it a lot easier to do."

Spartana: Do you have any plans for the future?

Murphy: "I'm going to hopefully vault in college. I'm not going to college right out of high school. I'm going on a mission for my church."

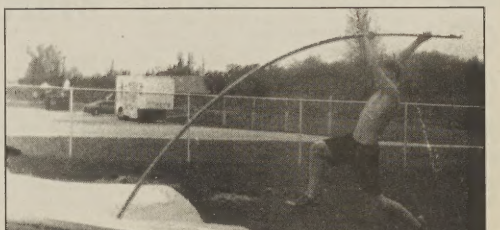

photo | jenn vang

Rugby improves record

josh gentry
sports editor

Sheer determination has brought the boys rugby team to where it stands now. Last season yielded only one win, yet was ground-breaking and supplied motivation for members on this year's team. Due to low numbers of people going out for the team, only one team was formed instead of the traditional varsity and reserve.

"We've got a lot of freshmen," Rudy Mahara (11) said. "For some reason the football players didn't choose to come out. I definitely think if they did, we would have more of an outlook."

Improvement is evident through the team's current record of 3-2.

The team's most recent loss came at the hands of Carroll. The SAC Blues lost their first game to Noblesville 8-5.

"We got our butts whooped," Mahara said. "We didn't want it. Game by game it really depends on how much we want to win. We have a good team, but we've got to want to win."

On April 21 the SAC Blues traveled to Penn for their fifth match of the season, where they won 12-0. Mahara scored both tries for the SAC Blues.

"It went really well actually," Brendan Hufford (11) said. "[It took] lots of teamwork, hard work, and lots of supporting each other. Our offense was really productive."

The SAC Blues have incurred several injuries since the beginning of the season. Brett Vander Molen (12) broke his leg in the game with Carroll. Vander Molen had reconstructive knee surgery last week.

The SAC Blues have two regular season games left. The short season is due to the sport not yet flourishing in Indiana.

"As soon as more schools pick up, I'm sure that in future years [rugby] will be sanctioned by the schools," Mahara said. "The girls team just picked up and that definitely had an effect on last year's guys team."

One of the main goals for the team is to improve from last year's season.

"Inexperience is our weak point," Chris Ghaffarian (11) said. "We've got a strong pack. We've got some pretty good backs. Probably inexperience will be our biggest weak point for the next couple of seasons."

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SPORTS

THE ARM OF Jackie Pitzer (9) swings around as she pitches the ball to the plate.

Softball tries to get past rainy start

Players aim to give coach Ciesielski milestone 100th victory

al hill
writer

Rain has yet to dampen the spirits of the softball team. There have been numerous practice cancellations, and four important games have been postponed due to the weather, which seems to be a recurring factor in this softball season.

The girls have gone through the rainy season, with playing only six games so far. The Spartans have come away with two wins this season, beating Leo 4-1 and thrashing South Side 14-4.

However, the lack of practice has come with a cost for the girls with losses in four of the games, including narrow defeats against Elmhurst and Northrop.

"Northrop was a hard game. Their pitcher was too good," Barbie Alvarado (10) said.

Homestead began well and remained even with Northrop right up until the 12th inning.

"We just need more practice to improve our communication." Alvardo, who is one of the four sophomore players on the team, said.

This season, the team is dominated with young blood, but third baseman Leah Slagle (11) said that the team was playing well.

"We have a young team this year, but the seniors are pulling the team together with their experience. We get along with each other fairly well."

Throughout the turbulence of wins and losses, good team chemistry has remained.

"We have a great team. The girls get along," Alvarado said. "We can get moody sometimes, but that's just because we are girls."

With over 15 games still to be played this season, there is plenty of time for the girls to achieve their goals.

"Along with a lot of individual goals, we are hoping to win a minimum of ten games this season," Slagle said.

These ten games are important to coach Linda Ciesielski. She needs exactly ten more wins to achieve 100 wins in her coaching career.

To see the girls in form, upcoming matches against North Side and Dekalb will be played at home in the next two weekends. They will play Northop in a double header tomorrow starting at 4:30. The Snider game will be on May 2 at 6:30. That is, these games will be played weather permitting.

Golf begins season with lofty goals

olaide olusanya
writer

As spring nears, so does the boys golf season. Homestead's golf team has a long tradition of excellence and hopes to continue that tradition this year.

Last year the Spartans secured a fourth place finish at sectionals because of the strong performance of their veteran team, but this year might be a different story. Ten of the fourteen Spartan players this tear are either freshmen or sophomores.

"Its still early in the season, but I think we have a chance to go far in the post season," Scott Childers (12) said. "We have a lot of talent and experience, so I'd say we have a chance to improve on our performance from the last couple years.

Due too the bad weather, the golf team has only played two games this year. One of the games they lost, and the other they tied.

Mr. Parker, the golf coach said that he is not concerned about the immaturity of the team due to the preponderance of younger players.

Last week the team played DeKalb High School and lost 161 strokes to DeKalb's 152. The players did well, shooting an average of 40, but the DeKalb team did better, hitting an average of 38. This defeat was due to the superb playing of DeKalb's Roark, who shot a 35.

"Dekalb has always been tough for us," Jon Streit (12) said. "We have never beaten them. Also Angola and Fremont will be good competition in sectionals."

The team also played against Concordia high school. They tied Concordia at 147 strokes, but won the match due to a tie breaker. The team seems to be getting better as the season progresses. Chipping, putting, and play around the green will be a major focus for the team.

"Our team has a lot of talent and experience," Childers said. "Sometimes our mental toughness isn't what it should be. You can always improve on the short game; that's where you score."

Advancing past sectionals is the main focus for the team this year. In years past the team has consistently fallen short here.

"We have not advanced past sectionals in the past few years," Streit said. "That is a major goal. With the strong team we have this year, advancing through regionals and going to state is also a possibility."

Some opponents the Spartans will have to watch out for are DeKalb High School and Angola High School teams. The team has their sights set on bringing home the sectional title for Homestead.

Season underway for tennis team

tracey kosmala
writer

The girls tennis team has been doing quite well for a young and growing team; and they are known to be very good.

"We had one disappointing loss to Concordia," coach Jim Shull said. "But, they're a good team and they've been our only loss so far."

The girls have already played three dual matches. Out of those three matches they've won two and their only loss was against Concordia. Emily Figel (12) is the top singles player and her current record stands 3-0 for dual matches. Also, this weekend she competed in Caramel, IN along with eight other teams and she won two out of the three matches she played there.

The girls have individual goals and team goals, but coach Shull has a list of goals in which he would like the team to accomplish.

"I want the team to win conference, sectionals, regionals, semi-state, and to get to state; but it'll be tough."

Even though it's the beginning of the season and it's hard to tell how well the team will do at state, they have a really good chance this year. The players are strong and confident.

"There's a level of mentality that you always try to reach. When you get to that mental level you work on being prepared for every match and you play every match like its your last; because in the post season if you lose one match you're out," Figel said.

Right now the team is working on building confidence and reaching their peak. They're also developing their doubles skills and playing tough matches.

"Our teamwork and spirit is great," Laura Phillipp (9) said. At our matches we're always cheering the most, and we're always the loudest."

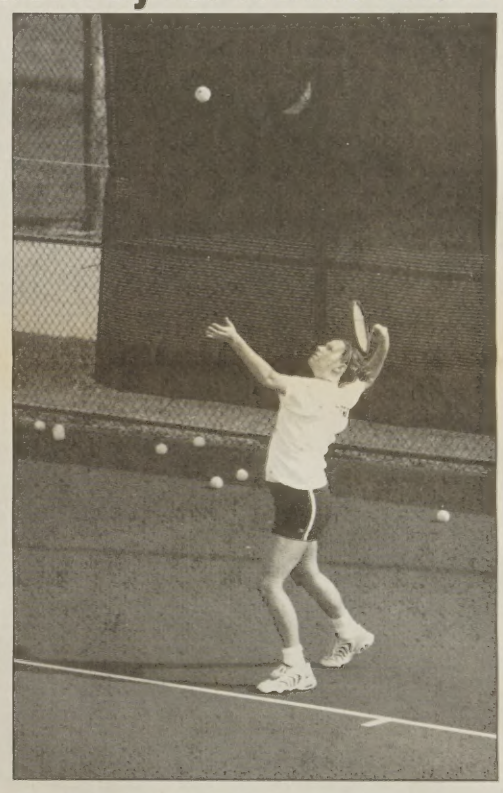
This year the girls get along great. According to Figel, they're very focused and happy with their progress.

Phillipp has been one of the few injuries this season.

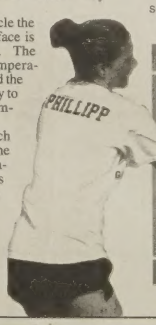
"I had me appendix removed a few weeks ago. I've mostly recovered and I'm playing again, but I still get a little nervous and excited before my matches."

Another obstacle the team has had to face is the bad weather. The rain and low temperatures have affected the team's opportunity to practice and compete.

The next match is tomorrow at the Concordia Invitational. The girls next home match is against Bellmont on May 1 and begins at 4:30. They would love to see you there.



THE BALL MOMENTARILY FLOATS in the air as Katie Cornwell (10) serves to the opposition. The Spartans are undefeated in conference this year.



Varsity members

Freshmen	Junior
Connie Shim	Meredith Marcucilli
Laura Phillipp	
Sophomore	**Seniors**
Susie Shim	Emily Figel
	Joanna Cornwell
	Sara Sulkin

Girls track team yet to suffer a loss

brian clark
writer

Though the girls track team has not had many meets so far this season, the girls have started the season off undefeated.

The girls team has participated in 2 official meets versus single opponents this year. The first meet this year was against Huntington North on March 20. The girls varsity defeated the Vikings 68-55.

The second meet was against Columbia City on April 11, and the Spartans defeated the Eagles easily. Varsity won the meet 92-32. Notable placings were Lindsey Cobb (11) first in the long jump, Jenni Lee first in the 1600-meter, Stefanie DeTomasso (12) first in the 800-meter, Sarah Shomburg (12) second in the 300-intermediate hurdles, and LeAnn Sarka (9) first in the 3200-meter run.

The Spartans have participated in two indoor meets as well, but these meets did not count towards the team's overall record. These meets were used to help fine tune the team.

On Sat. April 21 the Spartans participated in an Invitational at Penn High School. Out of the 16 teams involved in the Invitational, the Spartans placed second. Northrop High School placed first.

With the season underway, the major goal for the team this year is to take home first place this year at the NHC meet.

"We have done great so far this year, and we hope to win conference," said LeAnn Sarka (9). "I hope we have a lot of girls that make it to the State meet this year too."

However, there are barriers keeping the team from doing as well as last year. There were many seniors who graduated last year that greatly contributed to the team. Ellen Elkhire, one of the many who graduated last year, placed first in the entire state last year in the 400-meter event.

"We did have lots of seniors who graduated last year, but I think we can still do really well again this season," said DeTommaso.

The team has also had the misfortune of injury. One of the major contributors to the team, sprinter Paige Vernasco (11) was injured early on in the season.

"Once we get Paige back, we're going to do great," said Sarka.

Major contributors to the team this year include sprinters Vernasco and Ashley Gonterman (11), distance runners Jenni Lee (12) and Tracy Butler (11), and hurdler Sarah Shomburg (12).

The Spartans will participate in the Lime City Relays tomorrow at Huntington North. The competition begins at 12:00.

Boys track team experiences early success

mike rodenbeck
writer

This year's boys track team started the season off with a bang. So far this year, the team is performing well, having not lost a single meet. A goal for the team this year is to win conference. The last time the boys track team won conference was in 1994.

The team has achieved a ranking of15th in the state. Two other goals this season include finishing in the top two in sectionals, and placing in the top ten at state.

"The team has a lot of quality players returning from last seasons in a hope that we may go undefeated this season," head coach Dick Shenfeld said.

The team participated at the North Side Relays, on April 14 and placed third. On April 21, the team competed in the Harding Relays and won. The final home meet will be on Tues., April 24 against DeKalb and Carroll. Homestead will meet New Haven and Norwell on May 1.

Strong leadership will be critical. Seniors on the team include Kyle Cleaver, Ian Wilson, Josh Murphy, Vincent Murphy, and Pete Skinner. These players will help and lead the other team members through the season.

With a quick team there is a chance that there could be records broken, including the pole vault and the 1600-meter relay. In the pole vault, Josh Murphy's best height this year has been 14'6". The relay team was able to make a time of 3 minutes and 23 seconds. Some other runners that have been performing well are as follows, Logan Edwards (10), Andy O'Connor (10), Matt Springer (10), and Jeff Carmen (10).

With experienced strong runners the boys track team races towards a strong season. With a state ranking early in the season, an undefeated is not out of the question.

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WEEKEND DIVERSIONS

- Gregory Hines will be performing at the Embassy Theater on Apr. 28. To purchase tickets call 424-1811 prices vary from $22 to $33.
- The Lincoln Museum opened a new exhibit on April 21. The exhibit, called Now He Belongs to the Ages, The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, will remain open through Feb. 2002.

horoscopes

Each sign of the zodiac is linked with certain personality traits. Find your sign by your date of birth and read on to see if this ancient art of astrology holds true for you.

Aries

The Ram
March 21 - April 20
Good traits: adventurous, energetic, courageous, enthusiastic, confident, quick-witted
Bad traits: selfish, quick tempered, impulsive, impatient, daredevil
Careers: athlete, explorer, soldier, sailor, CEO
Body parts: head, brain
Ruling Planet: Mars
Color: red
Star stone: diamond
Famous Aryans: Charlie Chaplin, Marlon Brando, Thomas Jefferson, Adolf Hitler

Taurus

The Bull
April 21 - May 21
Good traits: patient, reliable, warmhearted, loving, persistent, determined, placid
Bad traits: jealous, possessive, resentful, inflexible, greedy
Careers: architecture, construction worker, farmer, doctor, chemist, musician
Body parts: throat, neck
Ruling Planet: Venus
Color: pink
Star stone: emerald
Famous Taureans: Fred Astaire, William Shakespeare, Barbara Streisand

Virgo

The Virgin
August 23 - September 23
Good traits: modest, shy, reliable, practical
Bad traits: fussy, worrier, overcritical
Careers: surveying, librarian
Body part: hands, abdomen, intestines, spleen, central nervous system
Ruling Planet: Mercury
Color: green and dark brown
Star stone: sardonyx
Famous Virgoans: Michael Jackson, Queen Elizabeth

Gemini

The Twins
May 22 - June 21
Good traits: adaptable, versatile, witty, intellectual
Bad traits: nervous, tense, superficial, inconsistent, cunning
Careers: debater, diplomat, orators, preacher, teacher, author, poet, journalist, lawyer, traveling, salesperson
Body parts: arms, shoulders, hands, lungs, nervous system
Ruling Planet: Mercury
Color: green
Star stone: moss agate
Famous Geminians: Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy

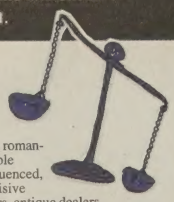
Cancer

The Crab
June 22 - July 22
Good traits: emotional, loving, intuitive, imaginative, shrewd
Bad traits: changeable, overemotional, moody, touchy, unable to let go
Careers: chef, housekeeper, antique dealer, real estate broker, gardener
Body part: chest, elbows, stomach, the digestive tract
Ruling Planet: Moon
Color: silver
Star stone: pearl
Famous Cancerian: Henry VIII

Scorpio

The Scorpion
October 24 - November 22
Good traits: determined, emotional, intuitive, powerful
Bad traits: resentful, compulsive, obsessive, secretive
Careers: police officer, detective, espionage, physicalist
Body part: pelvis, reproductive and urinary systems
Ruling Planet: Pluto
Color: dark red
Star stone: opal
Famous Scorpios: Marie Antoinette, Marie Curie

Libra



The Scales
September 24 - October 23
Good traits: diplomatic, urbane, romantic, charming, easygoing, sociable
Bad traits: gullible, easily influenced, flirtatious, self indulgent, indecisive
Careers: administrators, lawyers, antique dealers, civil servants, banker, fashion designer
Body part: lumbar region, lower back, kidneys
Ruling Planet: Venus
Color: blue
Star stone: Sapphire
Famous Librans: Bruce Springsteen, Mohandas Gandhi

Sagittarius

The Archer
November 23 - December 21
Good traits: optimistic, philosophical, jovial
Bad traits: blindly optimistic, careless, tactless
Careers: social administrator, advertiser
Body part: hips, thighs
Ruling Planet: Jupiter
Color: purple
Star stone: topaz
Famous Sagitareans: Mark Twain, Jim Morrison

Pisces

The Fish
February 20 - March 20
Good traits: compassionate, kind, selfless, unworldly, intuitive
Bad traits: idealist, secretive, vague, weak-willed, easily lead
Careers: nurse, secretary, book keeper, astronomer, veterinary surgeon, architecture
Body part: feet, liver
Ruling Planet: Neptune
Color: seagreen
Star stone: moonstone
Famous Pisceans: Cindy Crawford, Kurt Cobain, Elizabeth Taylor, Tammin Surrock

Aquarius

The Water carrier
January 21 - February 19
Good traits: friendly, humanitarian, loyal
Bad traits: unpredictable, unemotional
Careers: astronomer, photographer, radiologist
Body part: legs (from knee to ankle), circulation of blood
Ruling Planet: Uranus
Color: Turquoise
Star stone: Turquoise
Famous Aquarian: Thomas Edison

Capricorn

The Goat
December 22 - January 20
Good traits: practical, prudent, patient, ambitious, disciplined, humorous, reserved
Bad traits: pessimistic, fatalistic, miserly, grudging, rigid
Careers: economist, financier, banker, real estate broker, teacher, farmer
Body part: knees, bones, skin
Ruling Planet: Saturn
Color: brown
Star stone: black onyx
Famous Capricornian: Sir Isaac Newton, Richard Nixon, Edgar Allen Poe, Elvis Presley

drawings | ashleigh lambert

Leo

The Lion
July 23 - August 22
Good traits: generous, warmhearted, creative, enthusiastic
Bad traits: pompous, bossy, interfering
Careers: politician, conductor, welfare worker
Body part: upper back, forearms, wrists, spine, heart
Ruling Planet: Sun
Color: gold
Star stone: ruby
Famous Leonians: Mae West, George Bernard Shaw

Determining the future

Palm reveals future endeavors

ashley dunn
diversions editor

Arrival and meeting the psychic advisor

With no preconceived notions about fortune telling, I walked into The Pyramid of Psychics, 3322 Lower Huntington Road, to have my fortune told. Actually, I walked into B and M Car Gallery (which is evidently connected to the psychic's shop), passed through a small room and was led to another small room with a few candles, some posters, and two chairs. I was instructed to make myself comfortable while the psychic was informed of my arrival. I wondered how psychic the person was if she didn't even know I was there. But, maybe that is asking too much. Awaited, expecting someone like "Miss Cleo" from the commercials to appear. Instead, a quiet, twenty-something girl walked in wearing slippers. The fact that she was younger than I had expected did not make me doubt her abilities. The fact that she had never attended any classes or conventions but simply "picked up" the skill did make me suspicious of the accuracy of the reading I was about to receive.

After discussing which type of psychic reading I wished to acquire, and deciding on palm reading, Nancy asked for the hand I write with. She examined my right hand without saying anything for such a long time that I began to wonder if she was scrutinizing it for dirt.

The good, the bad, and the questions that arise

After what seemed like ten minutes, but was probably only seconds, she opened her mouth and suddenly I didn't want to know. In fact, I didn't like the idea that this stranger now knew many secrets about me, possibly things I've never told anyone or, even worse, things I never even knew about myself. Instead of jumping out of my seat and making a run for it, I braced myself for the worst. She pointed out my life line and told me I would live to be a healthy 85 years old. This seemed to be good news, although I started to overanalyze what this meant. If I'm still healthy in 69 years, then how am I going to die? Will I be hit by a car? Will I be killed in a plane crash? Or, will I be hunted down and kidnapped by a terrorist who wants a piece of information that I swore to secrecy and end up being starved to death as punishment for not revealing it? Or, maybe I will get stuck in quicksand. Ever since I saw that on TV. When I was little, I have thought that would be one of the worst ways to die. I didn't know, and if Nancy did, she wasn't saying.

I started to focus again on what she was predicting and found out that something I am currently doing in my life will help me in my future career. Unfortunately, the beginning of my career, whatever it is, will be rocky.

Lovers lane

Next, we got to my love line. As it turns out, a blond guy with light colored eyes has emotionally hurt me in the past. This was new information to me. All of a sudden, I started questioning myself again. Am I okay? Should I feel depressed? Who was this guy and where is he? I realized I was being dumb. If somebody truly hurt me in the past, I would certainly know about it. . right?

I was next told that I will become seriously involved with a dark-haired guy with brown eyes (if there are any takers you know where to find me). This sounded intriguing and is something I'm looking forward to. As images started appearing in my mind, my rational thinking kicked in and all of a sudden I was again wondering how my hand knew this.

I paid close attention while she pointed at another spot and informed me that I will have three children. I looked at my hand, I squinted, I tilted my head to the left and then to the right. I still only saw my thumb, just like it had always been. The specific spot she pointed to didn't seem to have any more lines, wrinkles, or dots than a hand should.

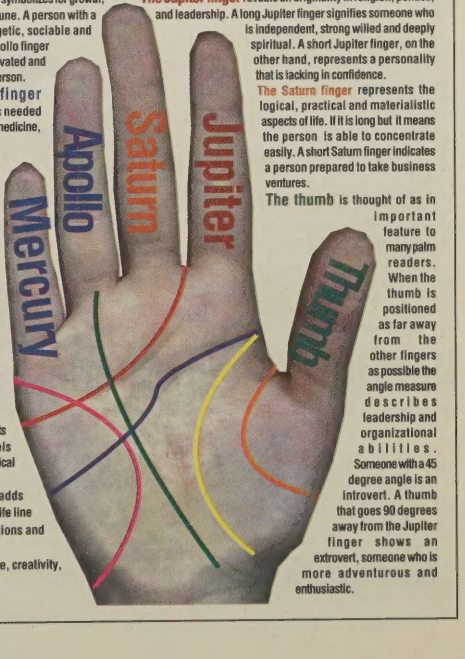
Financial lowdown

A short four minutes after we started we were done. It was completely painless unless you count the damage it did to my bank account. The palm reading cost $25, $30 with the 20 percent tax. Egyptian Rune Stones would have cost $25, a sand reading would be $35 and tarot cards (which, I was informed, seems to be more detailed and even more accurate, if one can imagine that) costs $45 ($54 with tax.)

Nancy said that she has been a psychic reader and advisor for eight years and has had many repeat customers. I know that I would only go back if I was using someone else's money or if I had nothing better to do with $50. I know, however, I will continue checking my horoscope each morning because those are free, so perhaps I am simply being cheap. After all, it was a fun and somewhat enlightening experience.

I am glad I had an open mind when I arrived at The Pyramid. Before this experience, I would have said psychic readings allow people to understand their past, to be guided in the present, and to have an idea of what will happen in the future. I now think that if you don't remember something from your past, then it couldn't have been that important. As to the future, I kind of like the surprises that living day by day brings. But for now, I will just wait for my dark-haired, dark-eyed destiny.

What's in a hand?



The Apollo finger symbolizes for growth, luck, fame, and fortune. A person with a long finger is energetic, sociable and creative. A short Apollo finger indicates a self motivated and sometimes selfish person.

The Mercury finger stands for the skills needed for communication, medicine, and humanitarian activities. A long mercury finger is owned by someone who is a good organizer. Someone who is reserved in nature is likely to have a short mercury finger.

Line of intuition: represents one's psychic ability

Head line: portrays the intellect career and mental health

Life line: represents the way one travels through life and physical health

Line of mars: adds extra energy to the life line

Heart line: emotions and health of the heart

Apollo line: home, creativity, family, and the arts

The Jupiter finger reveals an originality in religion, politics, and leadership. A long Jupiter finger signifies someone who is independent, strong willed and deeply spiritual. A short Jupiter finger, on the other hand, represents a personality that is lacking in confidence.

The Saturn finger represents the logical, practical and materialistic aspects of life. If it is long but it means the person is able to concentrate easily. A short Saturn finger indicates a person prepared to take business ventures.

The thumb is thought of as in important feature to many palm readers. When the thumb is positioned as far away from the other fingers as possible the angle measure describes leadership and organizational abilities. Someone with a 45 degree angle is an introvert. A thumb that goes 90 degrees away from the Jupiter finger shows an extrovert, someone who is more adventurous and enthusiastic.

Volume 31
Issue 11
May 18, 2001

THE SPARTANA

4310 Homestead Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Homestead High School

Start your engines and turn to Page 8

Diversions, Page 8

Looking for fun in the sun? Try our informative guide to area golf courses for something to do this summer

Sports, Page 7

Days until School Ends

17

Women's Bureau raises assault awareness

emily figel
associate editor

As an attempt to take a stand against hate crimes, the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau and Northeast School of Dance funded a benefit on April 27 at the Performing Arts Center. This fund-raiser, entitled Educating Young Minds and Empowering Young Souls, was successful in attracting a 400 person audience and raising over $1,000 for the Women's Bureau.

"This benefit was to raise money for the Assault Awareness for Teens program," program coordinator Michele Schiebel said. Schiebel is an employee of the Women's Bureau, and also a dance instructor at Northeast School of Dance. "Being a teacher at the studio, I thought this would be a good way to combine my full and part-time jobs to raise community awareness."

The program featured 14 numbers, which included various dances in the jazz, lyrical, modern, and tap categories. Some dances were large productions with many dancers, while others were smaller numbers and solos. One of those soloists was Kacie Smith (12). Smith has danced at Northeast for 13 years, and she was pleased to dance for such a cause as this.

"It was a nice change," Smith said. "Normally, our performances benefit the studio. I am happy that such a great cause fell into our hands. That night we all danced for a cause instead of ourselves. It was a great experience."

The performance entertained people with a wide variety of interests. Some dances were upbeat and fun, while others were slower in beat and possessed a deeper meaning.

"The most fulfilling dance was a lyrical number to 'Scarecrow,' by Melissa Ethridge," Smith said. "The song pertains to hate crimes and its powerfulness (sic) is shown through our routine."

This benefit is just one of the many attempts to raise money for assault awareness. The Fort Wayne Women's Bureau sponsors many other programs and activities to educate men and women of all ages.

"We hold assault and rape education programs for businesses," Schiebel said. "We also give presentations at middle and high schools in Fort Wayne and the surrounding areas. We have self-defense workshops, and we monitor a rape crisis hot line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

Due to the efforts of Schiebel, the other employees of the Women's Bureau, and the dedicated dancers, this benefit was successful in raising money for the cause of Assault Awareness for Teens.

photo / emily figel

A DANCER FROM THE Northeast School of Dance participates in the Women's Bureau fund-raiser on April 27. Over $1,000 was raised at the event.

City mayor outlines plans for future

allison rahrig
news editor

Since taking office in January 2000, Mayor Graham Richard has implemented many new policies and programs. He annually invites one student from each middle and high school in Fort Wayne and the surrounding areas to discuss current issues. *The Spartana* had the opportunity to attend this meeting, held on March 18. The following are his thoughts on various topics.

BEST program

Richard is extremely active in creating different programs and teams, whose goals are to improve Fort Wayne.

"There's one initiative that I'm particularly proud of. The BEST (Building Excellent Services with Teams) program's goal is to make the city better. We all have the opportunity to be better and to improve.

"One of the philosophies that I brought to office was, 'Let's do a lot more with prevention.' For instance, one of the BEST teams is a leaf team. Some people ask, 'Why is there a leaf team in the middle of the spring?' If we don't plan now, we won't be ready for leaf removal in October and November."

Mayor's Youth Council

Another committee that will advise Richard is the Mayor's Youth Council, still in its planning stage. High school students apply to be member of the council and once chosen, can serve for the duration of their high school careers.

"The Mayor's Youth Council will be comprised of representatives from different high schools. Students will serve as advisors to the mayor on projects that affect young people, such as the skateboard park or curfew laws. The decisions we make today and our advocacy for then will largely affect the future. I want students to have a hand in the types of changes that will affect their lives now and in the future."

Quadrant/community-oriented policing

"We need community-oriented policing because we need more consistency. Good policing is built upon trust and a responsible chain of command. It's true that certain officers might have more runs, but quadrants help focus resources on a problem, using a neighborhood approach. Ninety percent of all police systems use precinct houses or neighborhood-based policing. We were one of the last cities in the country to adopt this particular approach to crime."

"Brain Drain" and Fort Wayne's Educational Goals

According to the Indiana Department of Education, the proportion of graduates who leave Indiana after graduation is higher than any neighboring state and worse than the national average. This condition in which students seek education in one location but leave that location before they share their skills with the community is commonly referred to as "brain drain." In fact, only 9.5 percent of 1999 graduates from state universities took jobs in Indiana. A more comprehensive study found that over a several-year period more than one-third of Indiana residents left the state after college, and nine out of ten non-Indiana students who attended college in the state left after graduation. Many experts blame the lack of opportunities present in the state, but Richard takes a much different approach.

"I'm different than citizens who complain about "brain drain." Why is it that students who graduate from Indiana schools leave the state? It's because they're in demand. Employers want their skills. We need to ask ourselves this question: how do we, as a community, make Fort Wayne an attractive community where students want to live? We need to make students aware of opportunities that are available in their own towns that they might not realize are there, such as internships."

Southtown Mall and the possible renovation

"I'm very hopeful that the owner will sell the property to this Michigan-based developer. We'll probably still have to tear down a large part of the mall, due to environmental concerns, like asbestos in the ceiling and underground tanks. Thirty to fifty million dollars will have to be spent to bring the facility back to something that people will use. Nothing is a done deal, but I'm optimistic."

Aboite annexation

"It's funny, because I have a good friend who called me up the other and day and said, 'We're building a park out here [in Aboite Township]. Would you help us out?' The part of that phone call that got me was, if you were a part of the city of Fort Wayne you could be a part of one of the best park systems in the state. Instead, Aboite residents have access to a fantastic children's zoo and numerous parks without having to pay property taxes.

"So, then the question becomes, 'What makes a community?' When you go to Florida on Spring Break and someone asks you where you're from, you don't say 'Aboite township.' You say, 'Fort Wayne.'

"This city and the township needs finality, whether the Indiana Supreme Court upholds or denies the appeals. I don't agree with the tactics the previous administration used when trying to annex Aboite. It was a big mistake not buying AquaSource. We should have bought it and cleaned up the water, and then perhaps the animosity toward annexation would be reduced. My goal now is to move on and work together to make our city the best it can be."

Downtown revitalization and the importance of planning

"Contrary to popular belief, we are not abandoning downtown. We have a task force currently serving the immediate downtown area. We're also investing $100 million to expand the library, Grand Wayne Center, and look into a sports facility.

"We haven't done the planning we need to do, which is one reason that I'm so excited we've come together for the downtown revitalization. I want to build on the assets we already have downtown. We are a host of cultural, educational, artistic, and architectural wonders downtown, in addition to businesses. Our task is to say, 'In twenty years, what do we want downtown to offer?' We just haven't been effectively answering that question. We have to decide what we want Fort Wayne to be, and how, in the next five years, the community wants to [achieve those goals].

"Good fortune is where preparation meets opportunity. In a couple of years a high speed rail line will be built connecting many of the major Northwestern cities. It's not stopping in Fort Wayne, however. We need to be on that line in order to draw people into our city. Nobody will stop in Fort Wayne because there won't be a place for them to stop. That, in turn, is not good for downtown."

Memorial Coliseum expansion

"I expressed the opinion that we wait 6 to 12 months and just look at the possibility of a sports arena downtown. I wanted to use a sports arena in the same capacity that Indianapolis uses theirs: for college sports and other club activities. I still wanted to spend some [money] on the Coliseum, and I never felt there was a desire on anyone's part to tear it down or let this memorial that is so important to our veterans fall by the wayside. Some events must be held there, simply because there isn't another building that will hold so many people.

"I felt that the momentum was a bit premature and that the community as a whole should make the decision, not just a small group, especially when everyone is paying taxes."

A closer look at Graham Richard:

Education:

•graduated from North Side High School and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University

Career:

•Indiana State Senator from 1974 to 1978, where he served as Chairman of both the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Mayor's School Board Members Search Committee. He was also a member of, the Senate Finance and Education committees

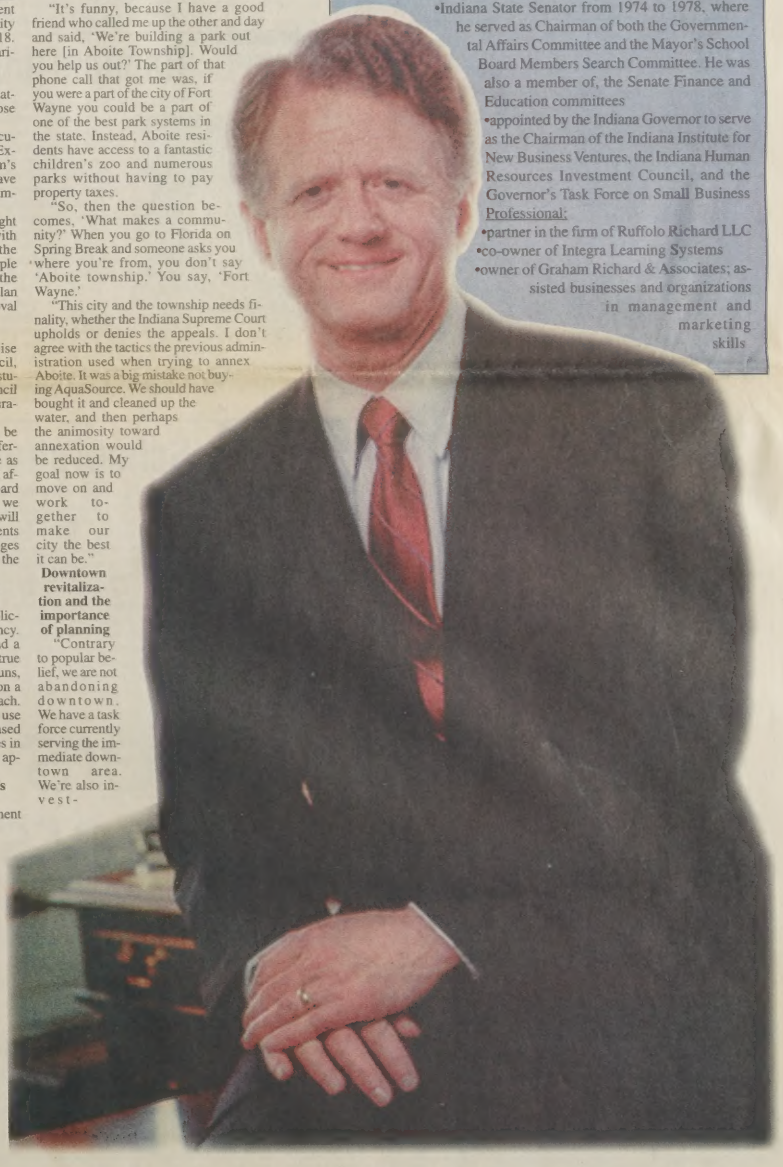
•appointed by the Indiana Governor to serve as the Chairman of the Indiana Institute for New Business Ventures, the Indiana Human Resources Investment Council, and the Governor's Task Force on Small Business

Professional:

•partner in the firm of Ruffolo Richard LLC

•co-owner of Integra Learning Systems

•owner of Graham Richard & Associates; assisted businesses and organizations in management and marketing skills



EDITORIALS

The Editorial Review

Powderpuff allowed for next year...

After much deliberation between the administration and student council, the administration has decided to allow girls to participate in the traditional powderpuff game next year, but with certain stricter stipulations.

The upside of this situation is that girls will be afforded the opportunity to play, which is undoubtedly a better option than not letting them play at all. The administration had previously worried that powderpuff promoted class rivalry and poor sportsmanship, which is why they had proposed disallowing it. It's beneficial that they are allowing play again next year in order to promote interclass unity.

The downside is that there will be much stricter rules, meaning that less girls will be able to play next year. This means that girls that don't attend a certain number of practices won't be able to participate, so the game will not be as lighthearted next year as it has been.

Editor Board Vote: 1 in favor 3 opposed

Criticism for picnics unnecessary...

Each year, student council members organize and prepare picnics during both the fall and spring semesters, offering a break from ordinary lunches and a chance for all students to go outside for fresh air. It's a well-intended break in the day, and yet each year students complain about it.

Instead of complaining students should look at this picnic for what it is meant to be: a break and a chance to go outside. Instead, they complain about every aspect. For example, although people complain about the food, no one passes up a chance at an extra hot dog.

Editor Board Vote: 1 in favor 3 opposed

Goodbye from senior staffers...

With the publication of this newspaper, our journalism career at Homestead is officially over. Do to our small staff we will not be putting out a senior issue, so this is our last hurrah. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our paper throughout the last four years. It has been greatly appreciated.

We hope we proved to be an informative source for reliable information. Our paper has strived to cover a wide variety of issues from all ends of the spectrum. Thank you for showing interest in our stories ranging from schoolwide to nationwide issues. Hopefully our paper made you think about pertinent issues as well inform you of upcoming school events.

In closing, we want to wish next year's *Spartana* staff the best of luck with all your endeavors. As for the rest of the school, have a fun, safe summer to remember.

Editor Board Vote: 4 in favor 0 opposed

Staff

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Assistant Adviser:
Jan Venderly

The Spartana is a bimonthly production of the Journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to educate, enlighten, and entertain. *The Spartana* has and may continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause substantial and material disruption, as defined by the Supreme Court, will not be printed.

Staff members of *The Spartana* support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the paper. Students will be assisted by the adviser is areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Gil Haynie

Finals for seniors a ridiculous choice

Gil is a senior who works as business manager and a guest writer for *the Spartana*. This article represents the view of only the writer and does not necessarily represent the opinion of the newspaper, the staff or advisor

Have we lost our minds? Have we deteriorated to the level of dumb beasts? Finals--why? Is there any explanation as to why the seniors, who have not had to take finals for four years, must be forced to endure four finals in one day? Do we forget that finals are supposed to be the accumulation of knowledge over the whole year? Does it help that the teachers have had to prepare finals with only fifteen days preparation? How can the people in power expect us to respect their decisions from here on out? Was this maniacal decision thought through? How many minutes did they spend thinking about this? Did I say thinking? I apologize; I meant vegetating over these childish notions.

The grim meat hook realities that come with this thoughtless borderline psychotic choice, are scathing and trenchant to even think about. At the time of this article, the seniors are required to take finals on May 29 & 30. The details: the state has apparently mandated some sort of arcane law or suggestion (most suggestions become laws with enough money behind them) requiring a check of the year's progress for students, this after most of the year is through -makes sense-. So, the school has two options: one they refuse the mandate and get a lower rating next year, possibly less money, save the teachers a headache and face the firing line. Or option two, a fan of assimilation, they give in to the state, let the state boss them around, give in to their fascist pummeling, and fall in line right with everyone else, a slap in the face of dignity.

Well, we can't be seen as idealist so we must conform to the sad ritual of surrender. This fall into mediocrity cannot be seen as defeat, it is only the next step. So, the problem at hand: do we develop a plan for progress testing or do we just jump right in without thinking? Again, we opt for the second choice.

How do we administer these finals? The obvious answer, give four of them in one day. This is genius because what sort of moron could imagine it any other way? How can these people be so daft as to think that this will work? Can you pile on much more of a devilish work load in a period of two days? Again we must not punish the administration, the panic sets in, they squirm under the intense pressure from the oppressive state and make a hasty, irrational maxim. I believe we work on different axioms.

I feel for the teachers, they have a job ahead of them. Teachers cannot opt to give the normal final, for that would be too difficult and require too much planning. Teachers must either create a new final for seniors, allowing for the shortened time (remember four finals in one day) or modify the old final. The discrepancy arises here, if the old final was sufficient to test on an entire year, how can a shortened version suffice? All this is to be done in fifteen days, when students could be learning more. Why isn't everyone in the teachers union protesting at the State House? Some may say "My final doesn't take up the whole period." I say maybe you should make your final a bit more difficult. Is it hard to fill an entire hour and twenty minutes with an entire year's worth of information?

So, I end on the phrase -in vino vertas-. It is the only way I can describe the way the administration is handling this funereal situation. How else can one not see the mistakes that are drilling holes in our very sanity?

Alison Larkin

Random drug testing a violation of rights

Alison is a junior and works as editorials editor for *the Spartana*.

If people choose to starve themselves to the point of risking their lives, there is nothing the law can do to stop them. Bungee jumpers can't be persecuted, and yet smoking, which falls into the same category as these activities that have been proven dangerous, is considered a crime.

Random urine tests that check for traces of drugs, alcohol, and nicotine have gained increasing popularity in some Indiana, Alabama and Florida school districts. Punishment for testing positive can range from fines and community service to being banned from extracurricular activities. Two sisters from Kokomo, Indiana, who were unfairly subjected to random drug tests at their high school currently have a Supreme Court lawsuit pending against these tests.

Schools cannot police what students do on their own time, nor should they try. If there is no effect on their behavior at school, there is no reason to suspect them of anything. Only if a student has suspicious behavior should they perhaps be tested for drugs, making the purpose of random testing null.

Many believe that these types of random testing would be especially effective for athletes, who are often held to a higher standard than the rest of the student body. This only leads to alienation; not only of the athletes from their classmates, but of the athletes who are singled out from the rest of their teams.

Drug testing is a violation of privacy. If a policy of random tests is followed, there is nothing to base who is tested on. This stricter enforcement only serves to make activities like smoking seem more rebellious, which is a big reason why many teens do it in the first place.

Where do we draw the line between freedom and legal consent? If a person feels that the law is wrong, and they are hurting no one else in doing what they wish, then we should take no measures to stop them. And it is certainly not the place of a school to govern somebody's free time.

Just because we attend a public school does not mean that our private lives should be publicized. Regardless of what activity it is, people should be allowed to do what they wish with their free time. If schools gain the power to control this aspect of students' time away from school, who's to say where they will stop exerting this newfound authority?

Steve Appel

School structure needs to remain same

Steve is a senior and works as co-editor in chief for *the Spartana*.

Changes are constantly taking place in schools and school districts. Recently at Homestead, however, there have been more changes than in the past. Some of these changes have been obvious physical changes, while others have been changes in the atmosphere.

The 2001 graduating class had an experience at Homestead different from others; our class was the first to use the front wing for an entire four years.

Through our years, we also experienced two major administrative changes. During our sophomore year, Principal Jim Freese was reassigned to a position in the SACS administration and was eventually replaced by Dianne Moake. Superintendent Dr. David Hales was replaced before our sophomore year by Dr. Brian Smith.

Due to things like security changes the atmosphere has changed. When talking with alumni, they now see Homestead differently than they did before. Obviously, the school is physically different, but the feeling inside the school is different, too. More contol over nearly every aspect of the day has ended the casual atmosphere that defined the Homestead of old.

I have enjoyed my time at Homestead and in SACS. In the future, I hope that the school and district does not change to a point where students are unable to appreciate their time spent at school. Sure, students will always complain about school, but people can still appreciate Homestead. They will only be able to, however, if the school is able to retain its good qualities.

Cheers & Jeers

Cheers to... everyone that participated in fine arts week for showcasing their excellent works and performances.

Jeers to... this year's arena scheduling for disregarding seniority in deciding who picks their classes first.

Cheers to... the people in charge of Prom for allowing same-sex couples to buy tickets and attend together.

Jeers to... teachers that are trying to cram the rest of the course material in before school ends and for giving us so much homework and end-of-the-year projects.

Cheers to... the girls tennis team for winning the Concord Invitational last Saturday.

Jeers to... the fact that seniors have to attend classes even after they have taken finals in them, and for having to take finals even after taking AP tests, which is the same type of comprehensive test as a final.

Cheers to... Mr. Applegate's winning economics team for success in the stock market game.

Jeers to... the inconveniences of using the Novell network system from home.

different voices

How do you feel about upperclassmen bringing underclassmen to prom?

"I think it's all right because it's just a dance, and if they're inviting a freshman, they probably like them."
Jessica Nguyen (9)

"I think it's okay as long as the underclassmen won't ruin their Jr./Sr. Prom."
Steve Baker (9)

"I think the important thing is having fun, and if they want to take an underclassman, then let them."
Jen Hiatt (11)

"It really doesn't matter to me. If they want to take an underclassman, then let them."
Josh Reuille (12)

photos | eric patterson

Indiana law requirement forces return of senior finals

ben jones
assistant news editor

As most seniors know by now, the school will be requiring seniors to take finals this year.

Seniors will not be able to use the standard finals schedule used by the other grades due to the senior activities that have been planned for those three days. Instead, the days before, Tuesday, May 29, and Wednesday, May 30, will be used as final days for seniors. Finals will be given in periods two, four, and six on Tuesday, and periods one, three, five, and seven will have finals on Wednesday. Senior final periods will be regular length periods, compared to the extended periods given to other students.

> "I do not see [senior finals] changing in the future, however, we are forming a committee to look into final exams and establishing a philosophy regarding them."
> **Principal Dianne Moake**

A new law, PL 221, is the reason Homestead returned to second semester finals for seniors. This law requires that schools collect data proving that the students are meeting curriculum requirements for each semester. Final exams were selected to be used as the data to be presented to the state showing students were meeting these requirements.

"Up until about five years ago, seniors had always been required to take finals at Homestead," principal Dianne Moake said.

Five years ago, the week of activities for graduating seniors began in accordance with the 180 day attendance policy instituted for all students. This same policy gave the option of senior finals to individual teachers, and many opted to not give finals rather than organize two separate finals for their students. The policy implemented by the administration is not a new policy but one that was shelved and has been brought back in accordance with the new Indiana state law. As for the future of this policy, no one is quite sure.

"I do not see [senior finals] changing in the future," Moake said. "However, we are forming a committee to look into final exams and establishing a philosophy regarding them."

The decision to reinstitute final exams as a way to collect data to meet state law PL 221 was made by the Faculty Advisory Committee, all department chairpersons, and the administration. Unless the committee decides otherwise, all incoming seniors will be able to look forward to second semester finals from here on out.

Students exhibit talents with annual spring musical, *Grease*

viktoria hutorskaya
writer

The past two weekends, fans of the 50's have had an opportunity to see performances of *Grease* at Homestead.

"*Grease* was advertised in the local newspaper, on the radio, so everybody could come," Ed Koczergo, director said.

Complications occurred in the organizing activities that were to be held before the musical. These events were canceled due to problems.

"We were going to have desserts before the performances," Koczergo said. "But things did not work out, so it has just been canceled."

Advertisements and the popularity of the musical attracted a considerable number of people.

"The performance was a blast," Jake Schmidt (11) said. "There were a few minor mistakes, which could be corrected. It was so much fun. The audience was awesome. They gave us a standing ovation."

The play was successful largely because of numerous rehearsals.

"We have practiced a lot, especially lately," Schmidt said. "We have been at school every day for the last few months."

When working on a play that is modeled after a successful movie, it is inevitable that actors are under pressure while trying to duplicate Grease stars. Koczergo, however, is sure that the play still keeps its own style.

"Everybody is influenced by the movie," Koczergo said. "A play is somewhat different: different songs, not the same plot. For example, there is no car race in the play as there is in the movie. Sandy is not Australian. One of the boys in the movie does not exist in the play. The famous dance in act three, however is the same as in the movie. In general, things are out of order in the play comparing to the movie."

Schmidt, who was chosen to play Danny, says that the star from the Broadway version of the musical made an impact on his acting.

"I was not really influenced by Danny in the movie Grease," Schmidt said. "I was more influenced by Barry Bostwick."

It was difficult for the jury panel to choose from the wide variety of candidates vying for roles. It was especially difficult to pick students for main parts.

"Most of the time, we are lucky to have two to three choices for the main roles," Koczergo said. "A lot of students think that they can do that, but it is not always the case. During the audition, we look at the way a person sings, moves, and personal qualifications. Before the audition, candidates could take the script out and rehearse. They also had vocal practices prior to the audition," Koczergo said.

Those people who were judging expected high qualifications from candidates. Schmidt, however, considered it an easy task to be a part of the play.

"I think it was not very tough to get a part in Grease," Schmidt said. "I was satisfied with the part I got first, which was Kenickie, but I ended up to be Danny."

Although the audition took place in March, the ideas were born a long time before it.

"We started working on Grease, I believe, on March 4-5," said Koczergo. "We were getting scripts, music, and plans for the play before that, but March is when we actually started working with the cast."

Due to its variety of scenery it would be hard for students to deal with the costs by themselves.

"Pizza Hut is our sponsor and the Variety Show in February was our fund-raiser," Koczergo said.

All of the dances that take place in the play were choreographed by girls from the dance team. Students were trusted and had unlimited freedom to brainstorm.

"I have been directing musicals for 20 years. Only one or two years I had outside people choreographing dances. All dances form Grease have been choreographed by girls from the dance team. They don`t need me. I may watch the dances sometimes, but it is their responsibility to have them done. This is where it is a nice thing to have a movie, so they can get some ideas for choreographing," Koczergo said.

All four performances of "Grease" were concluded with standing ovations, which audience gave in order to express their satisfaction with the play. Next year performers will have to work even harder as audience's expectations are going to be high after such a successfully produced play.

ABOVE LEFT: *Grease* cast members perform part of their show Saturday night. The performances ran on May 4,5, 11, 12. **BELOW:** Teresa Quigley (11) plays the part of Sandy, co-starring with Jake Schmidt (11) as Danny.

photos | jen hiatt

The 2001 *Grease* cast

Danny – Jake Schmidt (11)
Sandy – Teresa Quigley (11)
Rizzo – Katie Haifley (12)
Kenickie – Jared Bollenbacher (11)
Doody – Mike Panyard (10)
Frenchy – Kelsey Amos (12)
Marty – Abby Puff-Zakhi (12)
Jan – Kaitlin Fumarolo (10)
Roger – Brett Hunter (9)
Sonny – Nick Amari (12)

Charity fund-raiser a success

■ Four Indiana children, suffering from cancer, benefit from a donation totalling nearly $2000, raised by students and faculty for the Pennies for Patients charity

meredith edwards
writer

According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 31,500 people will be diagnosed with leukemia this year, out of those, 2,700 will be children.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society have created the project Pennies for Patients to raise money to help children with leukemia. The society's main goal is to help in the race to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and Hodgkin's disease. Another of their goals is to improve the quality of life for Indiana patients and their families.

The students and staff brought in money to contribute to Pennies for Patients. The money was collected for three weeks in all classrooms. The grand total for the fund raiser was $1,191.85. The project was headed up by Lindsey Bruggeman (10) and co-chaired by Angie Mills (9).

"(The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society) sent Student Government a packet and our advisor asked if anyone was interested, so I decided to take on the project," Bruggeman said.

The money that was raised will benefit four children from across the state. Alex Cruz from Fort Wayne, Kylie Keller from Lafayette, Brain Smith from Greenfield and Paige Robinson from Elkhart, all received aid from the money that students and staff donated.

Stanley Crum's physics class collected the most money, with a total of $256.17. A party will be thrown for his class.

"I really didn't do much to motivate my students," Crum said. "I just told them about the project and that I thought it was a valuable thing. Nolan Barr (12) was the one who began to pass the box around everyday and then I kept a tally of how much we had collected. That, I feel, is what got the students excited, and it also reminded them that we were collecting."

The school will be receiving either a sports package or a $100 gift certificate because of the large amount of money raised.

"I just thought that we should do all that we could for these patients, and I also thought it was a great project," Bruggeman said.

In 2001 it is estimated that 21,500 adults and children will die of some type of leukemia. Perhaps the money brought in by the staff and students will save four of those lives.

Teachers to receive new laptop computers

greg karidas
writer

All teachers in the Southwest Allen County School district will be receiving new personal computers before the fall of the 2001-2002 school year. Faculty members will have to decide which type they prefer: Dell or Apple G4 Powerbook.

"In the case of our teachers, most that are choosing IBM compatible are due to personal preference, or wanting to learn the Windows platform," computer specialist Susan Shreffler said.

The most recent purchase of new computers was five years ago. Therefore, the computers that teachers will be receiving shortly are much more advanced than the machines they currently possess. These are new and improved and will include a built-in DVD player, USB ports, a "Firewire" port for connecting to digital cameras, and also a video-out for connecting to classroom monitors. The basics, such as a the screen, processor, and memory, will be enhanced.

"When [a] trial of SASI Online Attendance was done, it was found that current laptops could not handle [the program], and were too slow to support it," said Shreffler.

Capability levels of the current computers, features, processor speed, and memory were several of the many factors looked at during the decision process.

The prices for these new computers have not yet been finalized, but Shreffler predicts that they will cost roughly the same as the current computers cost. Generally, computers of the same type will tend to cost the same price from year to year.

The new laptops will hopefully be an advantage for teachers next year because of the various features they include.

Study circles provide forum for discussion

jon salisbury
co-editor in chief

This year Homestead has become one of the growing number of schools to adopt study circles. The group has been present in the city for two or three years, but this is the first year Homestead has taken part in the program.

Study circles are discussions focused on issues in the community. There is a diverse group of students involved in the talks.

"The students were chosen based on referrals from counselors," counselor Diane Rice said. "Several students that were attempting to create a multicultural group were also chosen."

Almost any topic is fair game when it comes to these discussions, but they usually focus on issues in the community. One of the facilitators usually starts the meeting with a question, but after that students are free to converse in an open forum setting.

"We are given topics and we can really discuss whatever is on our mind," Brandon Maroney (11) said. "The topics have been racism in schools, violence, and differences in cultures."

The purpose of Study circles is to make people more aware of issues in the area. The range of discussion topics varies from meeting to meeting.

"Basically, study circles is a format that is used to explore community issues in the city of Fort Wayne," Rice said. "They are used to open discussion on race and culture."

Homestead is one of the first area schools to create a study circle program. They recently have become popular nationwide.

"I think North Side and us are the only schools trying it," Maroney said. "A study circle works at Homestead because there is a wide range of people who go here and each has their own ideas on different topics."

Rice has seen first hand development of students from meeting to meeting.

"It makes students go out of their comfort zone and experience different backgrounds," Rice said. "It really causes students to grow."

Thus far, the group has been a success. The discussions have opened the eyes of many students.

"The students love it," Rice said. "I love it. Its exciting. They listen very well and they have a lot of opportunities to learn about each other."

The group's final meeting will be on May 22. Principal Dianne Moake and Superintendent Brian Smith will be at the meeting.

photo | josh gentry

WROUGHT WITH ATTENTION, study circle members David Linsmeyer (11) and Meğan Lawler (11) take part in a discussion about community issues.

PROM

Prom throughout the years

'71

The first annual Prom was held May 15, with a theme of "Spring Eutopia". Students helped decorate with crepe paper budding trees, to help complement the garden scene.

'81

"Forever like a Rose" was the theme for the 1981 Prom. It was held at the Embassy Theatre, which was decorated with white tablecloths and blooming red rose arrangements. "Amethyst" entertained with soft rock, jazz, country, and ballroom tunes. Takaoka and the Summit Club were popular pre-Prom dinners.

'91

The Scottish Rite Auditorium was home to the 1991 junior-senior Prom held on May 18. At Prom, couples received memory books, souvenir tickets, and champagne flutes, as momentos of their speical evening. "Wonderful Tonight" served as the theme. Many students opted not to attend the Prom because the cost of tickets increased.

One of

joanna rogers
writer

One is a hard
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These are the pe
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exception.

The juniors in Stu
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for this year's Prom, whic
19 at the Grand Wayne C
start at 8:00 p.m. and last
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Many people re
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"The entire schoo
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closer," Niki Shah (11), t
this year, said.

In fact, Shah said
year's junior class, Linds
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Among her list of thing
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And th

M 2001

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ations.

Along with all of the planning for this dance, a considerable amount of time is dedicated to fund raisers. With Prom costing around $7,000-$8,000 this year, fund raisers were a necessity for making this dance possible. Among the fund raisers were candy cane and wreath sales around the holidays, a dance, car washes, and entertainment books.

"The entire school year for juniors is spent working on prom," Niki Shah (11) said.

"It was neat to see it all come together," Jared Bollenbacher (11), a member of the Student Government, said.

A favorite fund raiser was a dance held after a home basktetball game this winter. The dance and other fund raisers were key to the success of the Student Government in their work for Prom.

Prom would not be the dance it is without decorations. This year the decorations will all be related to a garden so that it ties in with Prom's main theme, "Wonderful Tonight." The decorations will be from Bob Mutton Party Rentals and cost around $3,000. This year, Student Government has done a good job of keeping within its budget. In years past, decorations have cost Student Government anywhere from $5,000-$6,000.

"We're going to do a botanical thing with lots of flowers and a gazebo," Sandra Mutton (11), who is in charge of decorations, said. "The main part of the room will have street lamps and chandeliers." Other decorations include benches, lightning bolts from the ceiling, and other garden related items.

Throughout this past year several juniors in Student Government have had the opportunity to organize Prom or participate in a fund raiser for the event. Often upon reflection, most students can pick out one part of Prom that seems the most enjoyable of all of the preparations.

" I think it is a treat for seniors to get in free and also, I think it is a treat for the juniors to give them something. It just makes you feel good," Shah said.

Prom is perhaps the students' favorite dance of the year and would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the junior Student Government members. For many years, junior Student Government members' efforts have been appreciated by students and will continue to be in years to come.

This spread was created by Mary Rozman and Melanie Kuehnert of J-2 period 6. Joanna Rogers of period 2 assisted with stories.

e winner is...

joanna rogers
writer

Prom would not be what it is without the Prom Court. Every year, juniors and seniors are asked to vote for the top ten guys and girls that they think should be on the court. This takes place during homeroom. From there, the ballots are tallied and the top ten girls and guys, of all the votes, are selected for the Prom Court. The Prom King and Queen are then voted for by the juniors and seniors in their homerooms. During the dance on May 19, the King and Queen will be announced at 10 p.m. While they are dancing, an Eric Clapton song will be played, which goes with the theme of "Wonderful Tonight." The members of the 2001 Prom Court are as follows:

Guys 2001 Court
Jared Bollenbacher
Ben Jorgenson
Dan Randolph
Andy Boesch
Blake Delatte
Aaron Guerrero
David Linsmeyer
Ryan Twiss
Seth Gibson
Jeff Diebel

Girls 2001 Court
Christina McNamara
Lindsey Venturini
Teresa Quigly
Coryn Love
Liz Kauffmann
Olivia Tatum
Heather Ludwig
Ashley Twiggs
Megan Lawler
Michaela Sotir

SPORTS

Softball team struggles with conference games

meredith edwards
writer

After struggling through the current season, the softball team only has its final game left at Harrison before sectionals begin at DeKalb.

On April 28, the softball team had a double header against North Side. The first game of the day was at 10:00 a.m., in which the team lost 5 to 3. Pitching the first game was Jackie Pitzer (9) and Angie Pasquali (10). During the second inning, two of the three runs were scored.

"The reason we didn't win the first game was probably because we weren't together," Stacy Speshyock (12) said. "We were really inexperienced and just maybe we only needed to get warmed up."

With Angie Pasquali (10) pitching, the Spartans found success in the noon game. The Spartans pulled through and won 6-3. In the first inning, the Spartans brought in two runs, while in the sixth another four runs were scored.

In the first of four consecutive conference games, the team played Bellmont on April 30. The game ended without the Spartans scoring, while Bellmont posted nine runs.

On May 2, the girls had a home game against DeKalb. This was the third conference loss for the Spartans. The team scored two runs in the third inning and the other two in the sixth inning but DeKalb outscored them 6-4.

The next two conference games the Spartans played were on the ninth and tenth of May. Playing Norwell on the ninth, the softball team lost 0-1. The next day in a game against Carroll the Spartans had one run, but the Chargers beat them with two.

The doubleheader on May 12 against Snider gave the team two more losses. At the 9:00 a.m. game, the softball team scored their only run in the fourth inning, while Snider scored four. At the 11:00 a.m. game, the Spartans fared better by nearly winning when they scored their first two runs in the seventh inning. But, Snider already had three runs.

These losses were mainly attributed to the lack of communication and inexperience.

"The team is unbalanced; we only have two seniors, and the majority of our players are inexperienced underclassmen," Speshyock said.

On May 14, the team defeated New Haven 6-2. Speshyock had three hits.

The team practices on non-game days from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. At practice, the team mostly works on hitting and team unity. Individual players have team goals as well as goals for themselves.

"I hope for the team to improve communication and for us to be more unified," Sara Lauer (11) said. "For myself, I want to eliminate most playing errors and improve my hitting so I could help the team."

With the official season almost over, the softball team has only won four of their 18 games and have lost six of their seven conference games.

Golf team finishing strong

brian clark
writer

With three recent inter-conference wins, the boys golf team has high hopes of finishing the season with a trip to state.

Last week, the Spartans defeated Leo 152-161, Bellmont 162 -181, and Huntington North 160-166. These three wins bring the varsity team's record to 6-1.

Of the six players selected to compete at matches, the lowest four individual scores on nine holes are taken and added together to find a team total. Whichever team has the lowest total score wins the match.

The only loss of the season came to rival DeKalb High School, who the Spartans will face again at Regionals.

"We are really playing great, and I think we have a great shot at winning out," coach Rod Parker said.

After the regular season ends in two weeks, the Spartans will play for the conference title on May 19. If they win conference, then they will play in a sectional match on June 1 at the Eel River course near Columbia City. Should they place in the top three teams at sectionals, they will play at a regional match at their home course, Chestnut Hills.

"If we get to regionals, which I think we have a really good chance of doing, then I think we have a great shot at going to state," Jon Streit (12) said.

Last year, the golf team finished third in conference, and finished fifth in sectionals, failing to advance to the regional match. "I think we're doing a lot better this year, because we really only had one senior last year, and with so many returning players we have a lot more experience," Parker said.

Last weekend, Homestead hosted its invitational match. At the invitational, 15 teams from around northeastern Indiana came to play at Homestead's home course, Chestnut Hills, but scores were unavailable at press time.

On May 8 the Spartans traveled to Carroll and stretched their win streak in dual matches to four straight. The Spartans defeated the Chargers 153-164. On May 10 the team hosted East Noble at Chestnut Hills. This conference match ended closely with the Spartans overcoming the Knights 157-162. On Saturday May 12, several schools within the area met for the Leo Invitational. The Spartans placed second behind the Carmel Greyhounds with a score of 315.

photo | andy borgmann

SAND FLIES through the air as Erich Martin (10) hits his ball out of the sand trap. **Strong junior varsity golfers include Eric Brown (9) and Andrew Frey (9).**

Girls track repeats with wins

tracy kosmala
writer

Preparing for their conference meet, the girls track season is well under way. It's looking bright for the girls and the rest of the season.

"Our reserve team ended the season with a 6-0 record," coach Anne Tiernon said. "Varsity is also 6-0 and has had some really great performances the last two meets."

The girls track team is ranked in the top twenty in the state. They have an excellent chance at conference, sectionals, regionals, and hopefully state.

"This part of the season is fine-tuning and staying sharp," Tiernon said. "The long, hard workouts are behind us. This is the really fun part of the season as the competition heats up."

Right now the team is working on continuing to stay focused and going after what they want to accomplish. The girls plan to keep working together and not giving up on their goals they made at the beginning of the season.

"My goals for this season are to work hard and score points for the team," Priya Lyer (9) said. "I want to reduce my time in the 400. I also want to work on and improve my form."

Many of the girls wanted to try their hardest and be successful in the dual and triangular meets. They've been working on improving their performances throughout the year and peaking for the big meets. The goals for the team as a whole are to win conference and advance as many athletes as possible to state.

"Our team strength is our ability to score big points in every event; every varsity athlete is very important to our overall success," Tiernon said.

The team records clearly show that they have very few weaknesses. The spotless records for both reserve and varsity are quite impressive. Also, the field events have been a huge part of the team's success. According to Tiernon, Homestead probably has one of the best field event teams in the area. Also, the team members feel strongly about the underclassmen.

"The freshmen are very good this year and have helped the team out a lot," Stefanie Detommaso (12) said.

photo | jen hiatt

WITH LEG EXTENDED, Sara Schomburg glides over her third hurdle on course to win the 110 meter hurdles over runners from Norwell and New Haven

This year the girls track team has had a strong group of freshmen that have really contributed by scoring lots of points at meets. Lyer feels that being a freshman on the team is intimidating at first, but the upperclassmen are kind and welcome the freshmen to the team.

"Our team has a lot of spirit and we're very encouraging. We're happy with our team and try our hardest," Detommaso said.

The team has had to face a few injuries this season. For one, a few girls have gotten bad shin splints and Paige Vernasco (11) has a stress fracture in her foot. Also, Lindsey Cobb (11) was out for awhile with a bone chip. However, now everyone's back and preparing for conference. Now the team's better than ever.

In the spotlight Jeanne Gemender

For being in its first year, the girls rugby team is doing well. With little interest throughout the school, it was difficult to get a team going. The team this year has achieved several wins and advanced to the state finals. This feat probably wouldn't have occurred without the help of Jeanne Gemender (12). Her hard work, leadership, and knowledge of the game has helped the Pumas greatly over the course of the season..

Spartana: How did the girls rugby team come to be?

Gemender: "There was quite a bit of interest after the boys started their season last year. The guys coach lined us up with a coach, and we started to practice. Then we registered as a team."

photo | megan mulroy

Spartana: What are your duties as a captain?

Gemender: "What I do as a captain, I made a lot of phone calls around to the girls, paper work, and stuff like that. [I] try to keep the girls focused at practices and on the game. Kinda make sure that things go how they need to be going."

Spartana: What do you do to get prepared for a game?

Gemender: "I start getting focused and start thinking about what needs to take place on the field. Right before the game gets started we do a little cheer and that pretty much pumps us up."

Spartana: What do you think of the team's progress thus far this season?

Gemender: "I think it's really good how far we've come along. We don't look like a beginning team now. At the start of the season, pretty much all of the girls didn't know much about rugby. We've been able to hold up pretty well in games. Our coach is very pleased with us."

Spartana: What are your plans for the future?

Gemender: "I am going to I.U. next year. I'd like to become a nurse. I plan on playing rugby there."

Spartana: Do you have any goals for this season?

Gemender: "We just qualified for the state tournament. I hope to finish the season with an excellent game whether we win or whether we lose. I would like to try to win a few rounds in the tournament but primarily just play the best game we can ever possibly do."

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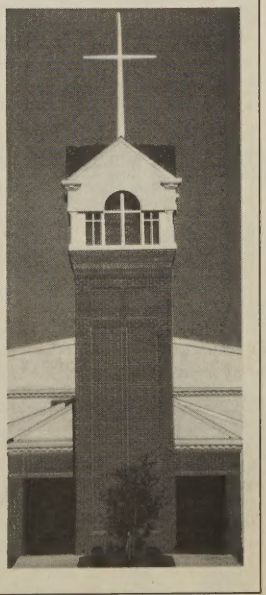


SPORTS

Girls rugby team finishes first season with a 3-3 record

Pleased with sport's start at school, optimistic about future seasons

alison larkin
editorials editor

On Sunday, May 6, the girls rugby team ended their season play after making it through their first year with a 3-3 record. The team ended the season with a loss during the first elimination game of competition.

"The ladies did not play their best game in the season," coach Leslie Eckler said. "Frankly, I think they choked under tournament competition. It was the hottest game we've played, and it was the longest game we've played. We can attribute a great deal of it to nerves, since it was our first tournament."

For a start up team, Eckler calls the team's performance this season "phenomenal." No one on the team really had a strong background in rugby, but it was the four central ideas in Eckler's acronym CATS that she attributes a great deal of their success to: conditioning, attitude, teamwork, and skill.

It was also the support and guidance of an experienced coach that helped the team. Eckler played womens rugby, has coached a college team, and is the only woman in Fort Wayne that is certified to coach.

With such a promising first year, the girls are looking forward to future success. Their vast improvements over the season have included learning to be more aggressive and not being afraid to take the ball or hit their opponents, as well as developing many other strengths as a team.

"We have some really fast people and our pack is very strong," Meghan Defreeuw (11) said. "But, we need to work on working together as a team. We have a lot of ball hogs."

The team worked hard during the course of the season, with multiple practices during the school week, and optional practices on the weekends.

"As I've said many times before, this team is like a diamond in the rough," Eckler said. "Their potential is phenomenal. There's no reason they can't take home the state title, they just need to learn the game better."

Despite the disappointment early on in competition, the girls agree that their decision to play rugby was well worth it. Many gained a new hobby and they gained a lot of friendship and leadership from fellow teammates.

"It was just so much fun learning a new sport," Ann Boyer (11) said. "Rugby's a really fun sport, and I'm glad I got to play. It was also great to make friends with everyone. I'll play again next year."

Eckler said that she plans on being involved with the team next year. She says that rugby is unique from any other sport, not only in the way it is played, but in what it demands from its players. This is why she believes that next year the team will probably lose half of its new members after the first two practices.

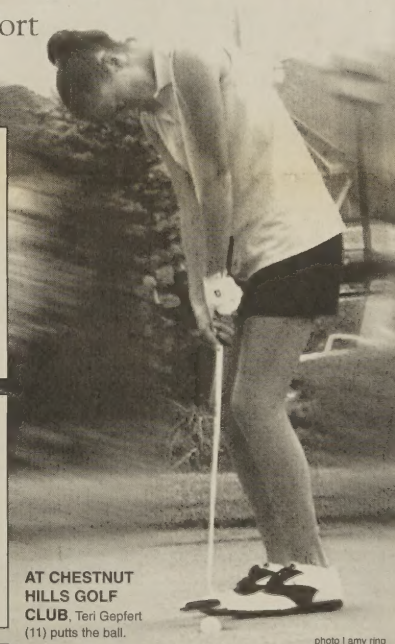
"The tournament this season was a bonus. No one expected the women to make it this far in their first year as a team. To the nay-sayers and critics that never thought we would make it this far, as a coach I would say thank you," Eckler said. "Our girls wanted to learn, and they understood the commiment that it takes to play this sport. If I had handpicked players for this team, I wouldn't have picked better players."

photo I william vragovic

GILLIAN HOLBROOK (12) shakes the lone opponent among a group of Pumas.

Traveling down the links

Information about golf courses in the Fort Wayne area



AT CHESTNUT HILLS GOLF CLUB, Teri Gepfert (11) putts the ball.

photo I amy ring

Brookwood Golf Club

Location: 10304 Bluffton Rd.
Telephone: 747-3136
Par: 72
Yardage: 5,294-6,844
Year opened: Late 1920s
Driving range: Yes
Weekday green fees: 9 holes $10; 18 holes $17.50
Weekend green fees: 9 holes $12; 18 holes $19.50
Soft spikes required: Yes

Chestnut Hills Golf Club

Location: 11502 Illinois Rd.
Telephone: 625-4146
Par: 72
Yardage: 5,125-6,620
Year opened: 1995
Driving range: Yes
Weekday and weekend green fees: 9 holes $15; 18 holes $30
Soft spikes required: Yes

Colonial Oaks Golf Club

Location: 8218 Huguenard Road
Telephone: 489-5121
Par: 71
Yardage: 5,231-5,581
Year opened: 1969
Driving range: No
Weekday green fees: 9 holes $9; 18 holes $15
Weekend green fees: 9 holes $10; 18 holes $18
Soft spikes required: Yes

Lakeside Golf Club

Location: 746 N Coliseum Blvd.
Telephone: 422-8714
Par: 71
Yardage: 5,485-6,320
Year opened: 1956
Driving range: Yes
Weekday green fees (regulation course): 9 holes $8.75; 18 holes $15
Weekend green fees (Regulation course): 9 holes $10; 18 holes $17
Soft spikes required: Yes

Fairview Golf Course

Location: 7102 S Calhoun Street
Telephone: 745-7093
Par: 72
Yardage: 5,125-6,620
Year opened: 1927
Driving range: Yes
Weekday green fees: 9 holes $8; 18 holes $13
Weekend green fees: 9 holes $8; 18 holes $14
Soft spikes required: No

Foster Park Golf Course

Location: 3900 Old Mill Road
Telephone: 427-6735
Par: 71
Yardage: 5,873-6,434
Year opened: 1926
Driving range: No
Weekday and weekend green fees: 9 holes $9; 18 holes $16
Soft spikes required: No

Riverbend Golf Club

Location: 7207 St. Joe Road
Telephone: 485-2732
Par: 72
Yardage: 5,633-6,702
Year opened: 1977
Driving range: Yes
Weekday green fees: 9 holes $9; 18 holes $16
Weekend green fees: 9 holes $11.50; 18 holes $21
Soft spikes required: Yes

Pond-a-River Golf Club

Location: 26025 River Road
Telephone: 632-5481
Par: 69
Yardage: 5,633-6,702
Year opened: 1969
Driving range: No
Weekday and weekend green fees: 9 holes $7.50; 18 holes $15; All day $21
Soft spikes required: Yes

Regionals nearing for boys track qualifiers

john joseph
writer

With an undefeated regular season under their belt and only a few meets remaining, most track members are looking forward to regionals on May 24. Then, hopefully, to state on June 1. These competitions, however, are only available to those who perform the best at conference and sectionals (sectional results were unavailable at press time). The top three finishers in each event advance to regionals.

"Overall, the team as a whole has had a pretty successful season thus far," Andy O'Conner (10) said.

The team has a very strong group of underclassmen which includes Logan Edwards (10), Paul Ueber (10), and Matt Springer (10). These three sophomores play an important part of the team's continuing success. Springer runs the four by four, and four by one. Edwards runs the 200, four by four, and four by one. Ueber is one of the top performers in the area in the high jump. Springer and Edwards both compete in the long jump. Each year undeclassmen participate in the Freshmen-Sophomore meet after the conclusion of the regular season. The team's underclassmen won this year's meet over the defending champions, the Columbia City Eagles. The meet was held at Columbia City.

On May 8, the Spartans competed in the NHC meet. After hours of tough competition, the Spartans finished fourth.

"It was a disappointing conference meet. Although I performed well individually, placing second in most of my events, we just couldn't pull it together as a team," Matt Springer (10) said.

For many track members, the top priority right now is working towards postseason competition. They are all training for the chance to run in the state finals.

"We expected a win at conference and the fourth place finish was disappointing. We think however, that we can get a lot more guys out there for sectionals and be more competitive," Wilson said.

Wilson came in fifth in the four by eight at conference, fifth in the mile, second in the mile relay, and brought home the only first place taken by Homestead in the 800.

After this season, the seniors' high school track careers will have ended, but some of the players plan to continue running.

"I'm looking forward to attending IPFW next year and continuing my track career there," Wilson said.

"I didn't have the best competing year for me, but there are more meets and I'm looking forward to proving my capabilities. I had to overcome a couple of injuries," O'Conner said.

Vinny Murphy (12) was also injured at the conference competition. Murphy pulled his hamstring in the 100 meter trials during the conference meet. The injury prevented Murphy from running all his scheduled events.

A very successful Max Trueax Invitational was one successful point of the season to look back on for the track members. Despite difficult competition, the team pulled together and attained a very respectable third place finish at Warsaw.

The team will run into a number of challenges in the upcoming meets and could use all the support possible.

Baseball performing at high level of play

olaide olusanya
writer

Winning 11 games out of 15, the Spartan varsity baseball team has been hitting a mean streak so far this season. Behind veteran coach Keith Potter, the group will begin tournament play May 28 with the first sectional game. As with all teams, the ultimate goal is the state finals.

If the team gets to the state finals, it will be because of the strong playing of pitchers like Kevin Watson (12), according to Potter. The coach also praised the leadership of team captains Matt Singleton (12) and R.J. Sanfrey (12).

In the last three games prior to press deadline, the team lost to Bellmont 8-16 and to DeKalb 5-4 but crushed Bluffton 12-0. Since Dekalb and Bellmont were the squad's biggest competition, according to Potter, the stretch to June might be somewhat easier.

On Tuesday, May 9, the Spartans played Carroll. Homestead scored four runs in the fifth inning, and three more in the sixth to give them a lead of 7 runs. They scored four more runs later in the game.

R. J. Sanfrey (12) scored three runs, including a two run homerun. Ryan Keena, Homestead's no. 9 hitter had a solo homerun which contributed to his two hits.

The Charger team attributes their loss to too many errors. Although Carroll has only committed one error in its past games, the team had five in Tuesday's game. On May 12, the Spartans swept a doubleheader from South Bend Washington.

At deadline, the Spartans were in fourth position in the Northeast Hoosier Conference behind Bellmont, Dekalb and Norwell.

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Tonight and tomorrow night Addison Timlin will star in *Annie* at the Embassy Center, 125 West Jefferson Blvd. At 9, she is one of the youngest to play the starring role of the 11 year old orphan, Annie. This production tour started last October and will end after its Ft. Wayne performances. Shows on May 18 and 19 are scheduled to start at 8 p.m. To order tickets call Ticket Master at 424-1811. Costs vary from $20-40 per ticket.

A need for speed

The myth, the mystery, the race

Facts every Hoosier should know about racing

1. What city is the Indianapolis 500 held in?
A. Fort Wayne, Indiana
B. Indianapolis, Indiana
C. Speedway, Indiana
D. St. Louis, Missouri

2. What is the nickname of the track?
A. Barnyard
B. Brickyard
C. Trackyard
D. Junkyard

3. How many total drivers have driven in the 84 years of racing?
A. 289
B. 665
C. 1057
D. 202

4. How many laps around the track constitute as a win?
A. 200
B. 500
C. 400
D. 300

5. What common last name has not been represented in the Indianapolis 500?
A. Jones
B. Hill
C. Smith
D. Clark

6. How many of the 665 drivers have been women?
A. 2
B. 5
C. 0
D. 3

7. For apptoximately the last 65 years almost every winner has had a sip of what liquid?
A. Milk
B. Orange juice
C. Gator aid
D. Coffee

8. What driver has lead the most laps without winning?
A. Johnny Rutherford
B. Michael Andredi
C. Scott Goodyear
D. Ralph DePalma

9. How many drivers have won the Indianapolis 500 four times?
A. 6
B. 1
C. 3
D. 4

10. From a field of 33, what is the least amount of cars to finish the race?
A. 7
B. 16
C. 11
D. 20

Answers:
1. (C) Speedway, Indiana is a town located within Indianapolis' city limits. Its population is about 13,000.
2. (B) The track was once covered in bricks, however, as the cars became faster the bricks made for a bumpy ride. The track was paved over, excluding one yard which is now the start/finish line.
3. (B) Even with 84 races and about 33 drivers in each race most drivers have been in more than one. A.J. Foyt for instance, has been in 35 races.
4. (A) It's called the Indianapolis 500 because of how many miles not laps. The track is two and a half miles long and has nine degree bank-ing on all four turns.
5. (C) Parnelli Jones won in 1963, Jim Clark came in first during the race in 1965, The following year Graham Hill beat everyone else to the victory circle. So far, a Smith has yet to even drive-let alone win a 500. Although a Carl Smith tried to be a driver, he failed to qualify in 1931.
6. (D) Janet Guthrie was the first female driver in the Indianapolis 500 in 1977. She paved the way for Lynn St. James and Sarah Fisher who have also raced.
7. (A) Milk has been the "taste of victory" for over half a century. Emerson Fittipaldi refused to drink milk because he owns an orange grove and wanted to drink orange juice instead.
8. (D) He lead 196 laps in one race but not the last one which in the end is what counts.
9. (C) Four wins is the most any one driver has won the Indianapolis 500. Al Unser, A.J. Foyt, and Rick Mears all hold the title of this record and are all retired now.
10. (A) In 1966, only 7 drivers made it through all 200 laps due to technical problems with the cars and crashes.

photos | Courtesy of Indianapolis Motor Speedway

TRADITIONS CONTINUE as the 85th annual Indianapolis 500 will take place on May 27, 2001. A new building (above) was still being constructed during last year's race (lower left inset) on the starting line which resembles one that stood in the same spot during the 1911 race (upper right inset).

ashely dunn
diversions editor

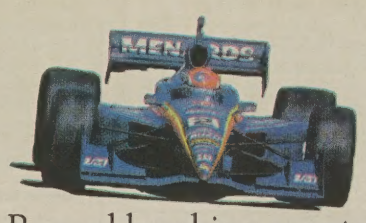
Known as "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," the Indianapolis 500 has remained one of the best known races, due to constant renovations. The most recent of these renovations took place in 1998-2000. All of the restorations, which include a new pagoda-style control tower and a state of the art media center with 18 massive video display units around the facility, are now complete for the 2001 race.

The track itself has also undergone many changes. For the first years, the track was made of brittle tar and crushed rock, replaced later by 3.2 million bricks. As the cars became faster, this made for a bumpy ride. To fix this problem most of the track was paved over.

Today the track hosts the three largest single-day sporting events in the world. Commonly called the Triple Crown, these events include the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400, and the U.S. Grand Prix.

Starting lineup for 2001 race

01	08	Scott Sharp
02	02	Greg Ray
03	41	Robby Gordon
04	28	Mark Dismore
05	66	Gil de Ferran
06	05	Arie Luyendyk
07	33	Tony Stewart
08	35	Jeff Ward
09	24	Robbie Buhl
10	91	Buddy Lazier
11	68	Helio Castroneves
12	44	Jimmy Vasser
13	04	Sam Hornish Jr.
14	10	Robby McGehee
15	15	Sarah Fisher
16	52	Scott Goodyear
17	77	Jaques Lazier
18	06	John Herb
19	03	Al Unser Jr.
20	21	Felipe Giaffone
21	55	Shigeaki Hattori
22	32	Didier Andre
23	88	Airton Dare
24	39	Michael Andretti
25	51	Eddie Cheever Jr.
26	07	Roberto Guerrero
27	12	Buzz Calkins



Record breaking events

*Most laps led by non-winning driver - 196 Ralph DePalma 1912 (laps 3 - 198)
*Billy Arnold led 198 laps in 1930 taking the title for the winner who led the most laps. On the other side of the spectrum was Joe Dawson who only led two laps in 1912 to win the race.
*The widest winning margin has been 13 min. and 8 sec. in 1913. The closest winning margin was .043 seconds in 1992. Al Unser Jr. barely beat Scott Goodyear.
*Al Unser has been in 27 races and has lead a total of 644 laps. He's also won four races.

Practice makes drivers perfect

Pepsi Fun Day
Saturday, May 19
Gates open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Practice 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
1968 car showcased (Joe Leonard)

Bump Day
Sunday, May 20
(Armed Forces Day)
Gates open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Qualifying practice 10 a.m. - 11: 15 a.m.

Community Day
Wednesday, May 23
Gates open 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Public track lap 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Driver autograph session 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Coors Carb Day
Thursday, May 24
Gates open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Final practice 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Coors pit stop competition 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Coors concert will feature Collective Soul at the Indianapolis race track 3:30 p.m.

Drivers' Meeting
Saturday, May 26
Gates open 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Public drivers' meeting 11 a.m.
500 Festival parade 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
(parade will be held in downtown of Speedway, Indiana)

Race Day
Sunday, May 27
Military bomb opening 5 a.m.
Spectacle of bands 8 a.m.
Cars put in position as the Purdue University barching band plays "On the Banks of the Wabash" 9:40 a.m.
America the Beautiful 10:33 a.m.
National Anthem 10:40 a.m.
Invocation 10:42 a.m.
Taps and fly over 10:46 a.m.
Back Home Again in Indiana and traditional balloon spectacle 10:48 a.m.
"Gentlemen, start your engines" 10:51 a.m.
2002 Parade and pace laps 10:53 a.m.
Start of the Indianapolis 500 11 a.m.

A checkered past

191
At an average speed of 74.602 m.p.h., the very first winner of the Indianapolis 500 was Ray Harroun with a time of 6 hours, 42 minutes, and 8 seconds. Other teams objected to Harroun's lack of a passenger or "riding mechanic." Harroun is also noted for installing what many believe to be the very first rear view mirror on an automobile.

1939
The winner, Wilber Shaw, almost lost to Louis Meyer who at the time was the tracks only triple winner. Meyer lead many laps of this race, but with 18 laps to go he was passed by Shaw. In an effort to gain his first place position back Meyer spun out and was forced to take a pit stop. Even after the pit stop, he maintained his second place position, only to spin out again. This time his car went through a wall, and he landed on his hands and knees on the track. As he walked off the track, he decided racing was no longer the sport for him and retired that day.

1946
The first race that was held since 1941. The track was shut down for a few years due to America's involvement in world war two. The winner was George Robson with an average of 114.820 m.p.h..

1960
This year holds the all time record for having the most lead changes between five drivers. 14 of the 29 changes were by Jim Rathman and Roger Ward Rathman came out ahead with a time of 3 hours, 36 minutes, and 11 seconds at an average of 138.767 m.p.h..

1989
Emerson Fittipaldi, the winner, and Al Unser Jr.'s cars actually touched wheels with just five laps to go. Al Unser Jr. ended up crashing while Emerson Fittipaldi ended up winning the race. This was the first year the winners' purse totaled over $1 million.